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A colorful Pride weekend
Check out our photos from
'the gayest show on Earth.'
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Freedom's fanfare
Lesbian composer Jennifer Higdon
makes music for the 4th of July.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Leno works overtime, misses own campaign kickoff

by Cynthia Laird

No one can say that San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno doesn't put in a full day at City Hall. In fact, Monday, June 26 saw him work into the evening as the Board of Supervisors held a marathon hearing about a planned dot-com development in the Mission District that forced Leno to miss his own re-election campaign kickoff event at Mecca Restaurant.



Mark Leno

Leno's absence didn't seem to deter the crowd of about 450 people who packed the trendy restaurant. Held the day after San Francisco's successful Pride Parade, many of those on hand were talking about that, and all understood why Leno couldn't be there.

"We can't begrudge him, that's what we elected him to do," Empress Donna Sachet told the crowd, as it became apparent the show would have to go on without the featured attraction.

"I was thinking of how strange fate could be," Leno told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, June 27. "But I never thought of leaving [the meeting]. It was kind of like missing your own bar mitzvah."

At City Hall, the board chambers were packed with supporters and opponents of the hotly contested Bryant Square project, a planned 159,000 square foot, six-building development in the Mission District. Proponents won Planning Commission approval, but opponents appealed and fought hard at Monday's board meeting as the hearing stretched to five hours. In the end, Leno, Board President Tom Ammiano, and Supervisor Sue Bierman voted against the project, but were on the losing end of the 8-3 vote.

Leno said that he left the board meeting after the Bryant Square vote. "Tom [Ammiano] thanked me and said I was a Jewish saint," Leno said.

Sachet had to improvise at Mecca, and read a statement Leno's aide delivered, in which Leno thanked his supporters for being there even if he couldn't. Other speakers talked about the supervisor's accomplishments since being appointed to the board by Mayor Willie Brown in April 1998 and subsequently winning the seat when he ran for election citywide that November. This year, district elections return to the city and Leno's running in District 8, which includes the Castro and Noe Valley. Lesbian activist Eileen Hansen is running

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Jane Philomena Cleland

DanierPhotoGraphics



Marc Geller

Out all over

**Almost 1 million people
flocked to San Francisco Pride**

by Katie Szymanski

They came from overseas, over the bridge, across the country, and across town to join what is the largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender event in the world. Over 750,000 people attended last weekend's 30th annual Pride Parade and festival, taking over the streets in high fashion and fostering that unrivaled queer atmosphere that comes but once a year. The gay holiday was anything but just another party; eager participants remarked on this year's energy, and even the usually-cynical reported having a fabulous time.

The weekend kicked off with the eighth annual Dyke March last Saturday, June 24, also the largest event of its kind in the world. Dolores Park was the place to be for a gathering completely organized by the lesbian community, and the girls strutted their stuff in costumes of rope and velvet, leather and chains, and of course, stickers that made a statement. An estimated crowd of more than 50,000 women attended the march, all of whom spilled into Dolores Street after speak-

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There were rainbows everywhere during last weekend's Pride festivities. Clockwise from top: These rainbow-attired drag queens from Salon Andres were a crowd favorite; a parade goer made his hair the color of the rainbow flag; a member of the Women's Motorcycle Contingent put a rainbow flag on her bike shortly before the parade started.

Apparent overdose leaves Seattle man dead at Berkeley bathhouse

by Ed Walsh

A 26-year-old Seattle man died of a suspected drug overdose at the Steamworks bathhouse in Berkeley on the eve of Pride weekend.

Berkeley Police said Jason Scott Kohlhofer checked into a private room in the club on Friday, June 23, at 4:52 a.m. Nearly eight hours later, a club employee entered the room and found Kohlhofer slumped over on the floor. Paramedics carried him to a hallway where they tried to resuscitate him. He was pronounced dead on the scene.

The director of the Steamworks health information program, Paul Cotten, spoke with Kohlhofer's sister and the friend he had been staying with in the Bay Area. Cotten said that he learned Kohlhofer had a history of heroin use and had apparently relapsed after being off the drug for three months.

Berkeley Police said a hypodermic needle was found in Kohlhofer's room and they consider the case a suspected drug overdose. Alameda County Supervising Coroner Investigator Mike Yost told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his office would have to wait about six weeks for toxicology test results before a cause of death could be determined.



Berkeley police vehicles outside Steamworks

Cotten told the B.A.R. that Kohlhofer's friend learned about his death after he tried to call Kohlhofer on his cell phone. Kohlhofer's body and possessions were already in the coroner's custody. An employee of the coroner's office had the grim job of explaining why he was answering Kohlhofer's phone.

Surreal atmosphere

Kohlhofer's body was removed at about 4:15 p.m., three and a half hours after para-

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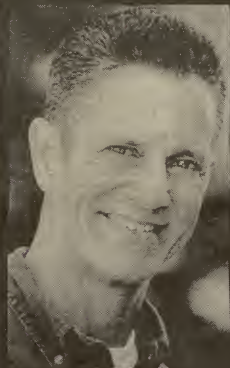
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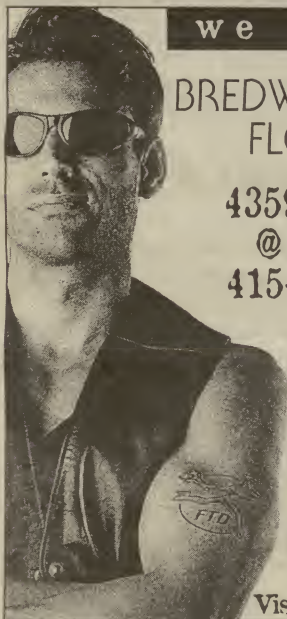
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Bodfish murder no closer to being solved after one year

by Ed Walsh

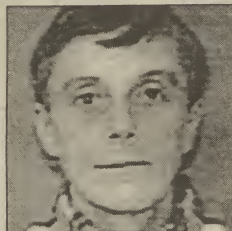
On the one-year anniversary of the murder of Emmon Bodfish and the suicide of his son, Max Wills, their friends and families are still faced with many more questions than answers.

Bodfish, 56, was found bludgeoned to death on June 30, 1999 in his home in the upscale East Bay city of Orinda. Wills, 33, was found dead in a Santa Monica hotel room last July 1 with his wrists and throat slashed. He left a three-page suicide note. Police say they still don't consider him a suspect but they cannot rule him out.

Bodfish was born Margaret Bodfish but for more than 20 years he presented himself to most outsiders as a man, Emmon Bodfish.

Orinda Police Chief Dan Lawrence told the *Bay Area Reporter* that although the Bodfish murder is still an open case, investigators have evaluated every piece of evidence and exhausted all leads. Lawrence believes Wills's suicide took away their best chance of solving the crime.

Bodfish had been extremely reclusive in the last years of his life. Police say his son was the only person who had any close recent



The late Emmon Bodfish

contact with him.

"When the son took his own life, we believe he took a lot of valuable information with him," Lawrence said.

Although Bodfish left an estate estimated at \$5 million, no reward has ever been offered in the case. Bodfish willed his estate to several charities and feminist organizations. His most favored charity, the Hysterectomy Educational Resources and Services Foundation, will get more than \$1 million. Bodfish's longtime lawyer and estate executor, Garrett Riegg, told the *B.A.R.* that he's contacted officials at HERS and other Bodfish beneficiary charities about pledging some of the Bodfish money to a reward fund. So far none has agreed. "It would be inappropriate for

a nonprofit to get involved in anything like that," HERS Director Nora Coffey told the *B.A.R.*

Riegg said that all Bodfish's charities have recently been issued checks for \$200,000. He said the organizations would get the remaining money as soon as the estate is finalized.

Bodfish's ex-husband, Burl Willes, may eventually inherit as much as \$1 million that would have gone to their son, Max, if he had survived. But he would forfeit any chance for the inheritance if Max is ever proven to have been involved in the murder.

Bodfish friend Stacey Weinberger told the *B.A.R.* that she's frustrated the police investigation has stalled. Detectives have released some excerpts of Bodfish's diary writings but Weinberger hopes police will give back the diaries to Bodfish's friends or at least let them read his writings in context. She said insight into the writings from people who knew Bodfish may help shed light into the investigation.

Friends of Bodfish and Wills said no memorial services or gatherings are planned to mark the sad anniversary.

"I see this as a time of reflection and introspection," said Weinberger. ▼

Benefit auction and disco party for Native Americans with AIDS Saturday

by Terry Beswick

Of all the communities that have been hard hit by the AIDS epidemic in this country, Native Americans have sustained perhaps the greatest losses.

"It's pretty astounding, as a disease that is taking hold of one group of people. As far as the Native American males in the city of San Francisco, it is the leading cause of death," said Ron Stranger Horse, a peer advocate with the Native American AIDS Project. "Nationally, it's the number one killer of males, regardless of sexual orientation."

Recently, NAAP, a small AIDS service organization with just under 60 clients, lost its direct care contract with the city. But 60 clients are 60 people, and while

the NAAP fights to win back its city funding, the nonprofit group has decided to throw its first-ever benefit so that it can keep providing services.

This Saturday, July 1, NAAP will host "Pictures from the People," a special benefit at the Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, in San Francisco.

The event will feature an art show and live auction beginning at 4 p.m. Items to be auctioned were hand-crafted by Native American artisans who donated the pieces for the event. There will be performances from Native American dancers in traditional regalia and singing and drumming from Native singers. "The Penetrators" will provide a "non-traditional aspect of Native people in the entertainment industry," according to organizers, and at 9 p.m., everyone will boogie down until midnight at a 1970s and 1980s disco dance.

"We want to get support from the entire San Francisco community so that we are able to continue to provide the kinds of services our clients need," said Joan Benoit, NAAP's program director. "This is critical at this juncture with the loss of HIV direct care funding from the city, so we're looking at becoming more self-sustaining."

A program of the Native American Health Center, NAAP has been providing culturally relevant and specific services to the Native communities for over six years.

The event, co-sponsored by the Native American Cultural Center, is free, although a \$10 donation is requested for the disco dance. All proceeds will go toward services for clients of NAAP. ▼

For more information, call
(415) 522-2460.

Alameda LGBTs to march in July 4 parade

by Cynthia Laird

As they have for the past several years, members of the city of Alameda's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community will march in the Mayor's 4th of July Parade this Tuesday. Out on the Island — Alameda's GLBT community action organization — is taking the lead in organizing the contingent.

The Alameda parade is one of the largest Independence Day celebrations in the Bay Area.

This year, OOTI will be joined by the local chapter of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

The contingent's theme is "GLBT Dedication to Public Service."

Interested people should meet OOTI marchers on Lincoln Avenue around 9 a.m.; the parade winds around the small island city.

Afterwards, OOTI will host a barbecue potluck from 3-9 p.m. at 2841 Marina Drive, along the estuary between the High and Fruitvale bridges. OOTI will supply the burgers, hot dogs, and drinks. Those attending are asked to bring a salad, dessert, fun munchies to share, or stuff to throw on the barbecue. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Supreme Court: Boy Scouts can exclude gays

by Bob Roehr

The Boy Scouts of America can exclude gays from their organization. A 5-4 majority of the U.S. Supreme Court overruled a unanimous New Jersey State Supreme Court, saying that requiring the admission of gays violates the Boy Scouts' First Amendment right of expressive association. The ruling on the case of *Boy Scouts of America v. Dale* was handed down Wednesday, June 28.

James Dale, now 29, had been a scout from the age of 8, advancing with an exemplary record to the pinnacle of Eagle Scout, serving as an assistant troop leader as an adult. In 1990 a local newspaper



James Dale lost his court fight

published a picture identifying Dale as a leader of the Rutgers University Lesbian/Gay Alliance.

The Scouts drummed him out of their organization, saying that homosexuals were not "morally straight."

Last August the New Jersey Supreme Court ruled that the Scouts may not bar gays from membership in that organization. In a powerful 7-0 decision Chief Justice Deborah T. Portiz wrote, "It is clear that Boy Scouts does not limit its membership to individuals who belong to a particular religion or subscribe to a specific set of moral beliefs."

"Boy Scout members do not associate for the purpose of disseminating the belief that homosexuality is immoral," she wrote. "Dale's expulsion constituted discrimination based solely on his

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Governor Davis signs Migden's jury bill

by Katie Szymanski

Governor Gray Davis this week signed into law AB2418, the bill authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) that prohibits the dismissal of potential jurors on the basis of their race, religion, sex, or sexual orientation. Davis put his pen to the page just before the deadline for the bill, making AB2418 official on Tuesday, June 27 and guaranteeing that one's membership in a minority group is not automatically assumed to be a conflict of interest in criminal and civil trials.

"This will help ensure that all juries consist of a true cross-section of the community," said Jean Harris, executive director of California Alliance for Pride and Equality. "We commend Assemblywoman Migden in her tenacious leadership and thank the

governor for signing this important legislation."

Migden's bill emerged from a recent state court ruling on a case known as *People v. Garcia*, a burglary trial in Orange County in which two lesbians were not selected for the jury because of their sexual orientation. The state's Fourth District Court of Appeals ruled that gays and lesbians were a "cognizable" group and therefore could not be dismissed from a jury for their membership in that group. Migden's bill simply codifies that ruling as law, making it clear to all courts that lesbians and gay men can have a place in the jury box, even during a gay-themed trial. The new law also codifies rulings that prohibit jury discrimination based on race, gender, religion, and ethnicity.

It is a law that is long overdue, and one that could have been helpful during two recent murder trials in San Francisco where the

victims were gay men.

Both Edgar Mora and Steven Nary faced charges of murder in San Francisco Superior Court last year; both of their victims - Brian Wilmes, and Juan Piffare respectively - were gay men, and both of their attorneys automatically excused potential jurors whom they perceived to be gay or lesbian. As a result, the jury did not benefit from the perspective of a person who is often the target of misconceptions about sexuality. In the Mora trial, for instance, the word "faggot" was never universally accepted as a derogatory term, so Mora's alleged use of the word during his attack was not a factor when the jury considered a verdict. In the Nary trial, the defense actually built its case on a "gay panic" motive.

"This bill assures that all segments of society have a place in the jury box," said Migden. "Essentially, this bill protects the right to a trial by one's peers." ▼

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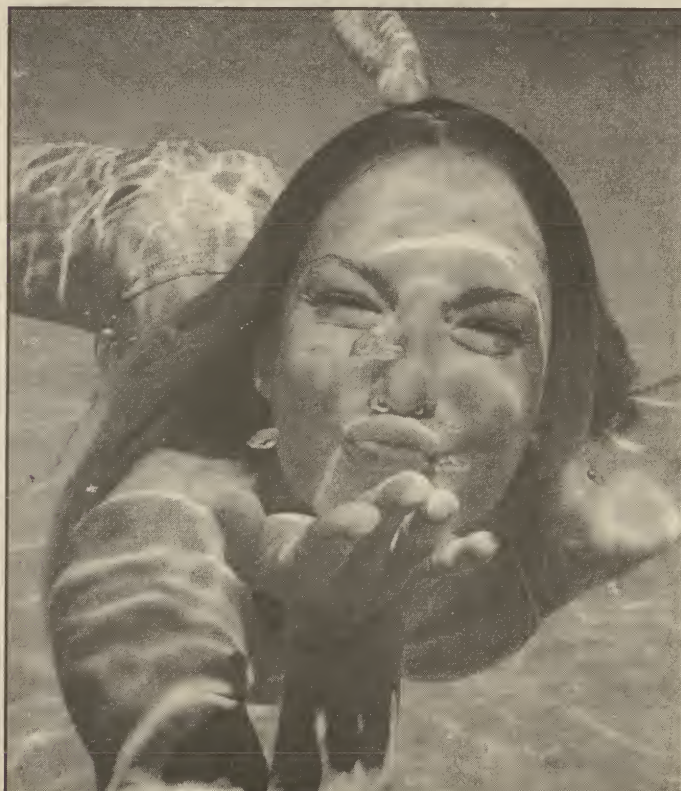
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SFAF mud wrestles LA over AIDS bucks

by Terry Beswick

As the Black Death raged through Tuscany during the Middle Ages, small city-states warring over land would sometimes use large wooden catapults to deliver the plague-ridden carcasses of old mules high over the stone walls encircling their rival towns and deep into the midst of its populace.

Here in California in the 21st century, of course, when we have disputes between our modern cities we would never resort to such means.

Yet a simmering battle between San Francisco and Los Angeles — with millions of dollars in federal AIDS funding at stake — has recently bubbled over into some volleys that are nearly as unpleasant.

"Folks are looking at this in a simplistic way to make a grab for resources," charged Pat Christen, executive director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "It really isn't necessary to be destructive to care for people with AIDS in San Francisco in order to try to boost care in other areas."

"We can't understand the principle that says a person living with AIDS in one jurisdiction should receive X, while a person living with AIDS in another should receive Y," countered Charles Henry, director of the Office of AIDS Programs and Policy for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services.

But the ugliest barbs came in a recent e-mail from Ernest Hopkins, SFAF's director of federal affairs, to one of Henry's staffers. "When I am finished Chuck [Henry] will [be] discredited as the liar that he is," wrote Hopkins. "Bottom line: he is nothing but a pimp."

The stakes are high, as the future of the Ryan White CARE Act, which currently distributes about \$1.6 billion to fight AIDS nationally, is being debated in the halls of Congress.

The Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act, originally passed by a Democratic Congress in 1990 and named after the Indiana teenager with hemophilia who died of AIDS that year, was designed to



SFAF's Ernest Hopkins

target badly needed funding to those areas of the country hardest hit by AIDS.

The CARE Act must be reauthorized by Congress every five years if it is to stay in effect and this year, the CARE Act will be authorized for the second time by a Republican-controlled Congress — provided that the internecine squabbling over the bill's text does not bog the entire process down.

The debate between Los Angeles officials and virtually the rest of the country is over the formula that will be used to determine a large portion of how much each eligible city gets to provide care for its people with AIDS.

The current conflict centers on whether CARE Act funding to cities should gradually be changed so that is distributed on a per-case basis, like an entitlement program with an annual cap, or whether funds should be distributed in part to sustain health care delivery systems that the CARE Act has already put in place.

"The CARE Act fund[s] systems of care NOT people," Hopkins wrote in his May 9 e-mail. "It is not an entitlement but a discretionary program therefore it is designed to fund systems of care that are providing services to individuals where they are living with HIV/AIDS."

Much to the dismay of SFAF and other local AIDS advocates, Los Angeles officials want to make changes to the bill that could cut an estimated \$8.2 million from San Francisco's AIDS service organizations over five years.

Currently, San Francisco re-

ceives about \$35 million annually from the CARE Act's Title 1, the part designated for cities or eligible metropolitan areas.

"Washington, D.C. and Houston have almost as many people living with AIDS as they do in San Francisco, and yet they get half as much money," Henry told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"San Francisco has a very small tax base of just 750,000," Christen responded. "We carry this enormous burden of health care costs."

"The CARE Act must allocate funds in ways consistent with the distribution of AIDS cases, without penalizing jurisdictions that have been successful in promoting the health of people with HIV and delaying progression to AIDS," reads a position paper circulated to Congress by the Los Angeles DHS.

Although a version of the bill favorable to San Francisco was recently passed unanimously by the U.S. Senate, the House has not yet put forward its own version, and Representative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) has taken a leadership role in shaping a bill that would likely reduce San Francisco's share of funding.

Christen, however, told the *B.A.R.* that Los Angeles will accomplish little by targeting San Francisco, pointing out that whatever cuts they are able to make to programs here would have to be spread out over 51 other cities included in the Title 1 program.

"We have always taken an approach that all ships should rise together," Christen said, adding that SFAF has been working hard to broker a compromise on the issue that would be acceptable to Los Angeles and all other parties. "Otherwise you end up robbing Peter to pay Paul."

Hopkins, a former lobbyist in D.C., took strong exception to the L.A. health department's aggressive stances in his widely circulated e-mail. Apparently written in some haste, Hopkins's note attempts to counter some of the positions previously espoused by Henry, but quickly resorts to personal attacks and regrettable epithets.

"If you are planning to change formulas to address equity it makes a BIG difference and is only

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Cleis anniversary party tonight

by Liz Highleyman

Cleis Press, the San Francisco-based publisher known for its books on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and sex-related themes, will celebrate its 20th anniversary this evening (Thursday, June 29) with a party at Modern Times bookstore.

Cleis, started in 1980, has published a wide range of fiction and non-fiction "queer books for smart readers," including the groundbreaking *Sex Work: Writings by Women in the Sex Industry*, Betty and Pansy's *Severe Queer Review of San Francisco* and New York, the *Good Vibrations Guide to Sex*, *The Complete Hothead Pissant*, Annie Sprinkle's *Post Porn Modernism*, Gore Vidal's *Sexually Speaking*, Joan Nestle's latest, *A Fragile Union*, and the annual *Best Gay*

Erotica and *Best Lesbian Erotica* anthologies. Cleis was named the Firecracker Alternative Book Awards Outstanding Independent Press in both 1997 and 1999, and several of the press' books and authors have won Lambda Literary Awards.

Still going strong at a time when many queer, feminist, and independent presses are struggling, Cleis plans to publish 15 new titles this year, including an autobiography of Christine Jorgensen, *Best Black Women's Erotica*, and *The Diary of a Political Idiot: Normal Life in Belgrade*, the first of a series of human rights journalism books to appear under the new Cleis imprint Midnight Editions.

Participating in tonight's celebration will be Cleis authors Patrick Califia (*Public Sex, Sex Changes*), Loren Cameron (*Body*

Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits), Jaime Cortez (*Virgins, Guerillas, and Locas*), Staci Haines (*The Survivor's Guide to Sex*), Richard Labonte (*Best Gay Erotica 2000*), Karlyn Lotney (*The Ultimate Guide to Strap-On Sex*), Rachel Pepper (*The Ultimate Guide to Pregnancy for Lesbians*), Carol Queen (*The Leather Daddy and the Femme, Real Live Nude Girl*), Thomas Roche (*Sons of Darkness*), Marcy Sheiner (*The Oy of Sex*), and Joel Tan (*Queer Papi Porn*). Also on hand will be Cleis publishers Frederique Delacoste and Felice Newman, herself the author of the new *The Whole Lesbian Sex Book*. ▼

The Cleis anniversary party will take place tonight at 7:30 p.m. at Modern Times bookstore, 888 Valencia Street.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Alternative family 4th at Yerba Buena Gardens

by Terry Beswick

Last Sunday it was "all about freedom" in San Francisco, but this Tuesday it's all about freedom everywhere in the good ol' U.S.A.

Hard to believe, but June is just about done bustin' out all over, Pride 2000 is a thing of the past, and now it's time for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders, and queers alike to lay down our rainbows and run up our colors – and yes sister that means our patriotic red, white, and blues!

Well, okay, so many San Franciscans interpret the word "freedom" just a tad more expansively than other folks. Hereabouts, homegrown and transplants alike will take the concept and run with it, expanding on it until virtually every facet of their lives is about personal freedom and individual determination – not only to be



CCSP's Carol Huffine

who they want to be – but to fly whatever flag they want to fly on the Fourth of July, thank you very much.

This Tuesday, many LGBT residents and their families will find fun, colorful, and alternative ways to celebrate freedom at Yerba

Buena Gardens.

The Alternative Family Project, a nonprofit family services agency serving LGBTs, the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, and the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts will hold their annual Ol' Fashioned Fourth of July Alternative Family Picnic at the Yerba Buena Gardens at 3rd and Mission streets, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

It's all good, clean, and – best of all – free family entertainment, including music, comedy, children's games, refreshments, a large puppet procession, raffles and prizes, a jumping tent for the kids, and more. Last year, over 800 people showed up, and this year organizers are expecting even more.

Another highlight for the holiday event: The world premiere of "Freedom Dreams," composer Jennifer Higdon's new composition to be performed by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom

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California teachers fight back

by Katie Szymanski

Two separate lawsuits on behalf of lesbian teachers in California could help to ensure that discrimination is no longer cleverly concealed behind the doors of public schools.

Last week, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund announced a victory in the case of Alta Kavanagh – an award-winning instructor who has taught at the Hemet Unified School District for 18 years – when the California Department of Industrial Relations ruled that students cannot be pulled from a classroom because of the teacher's sexual orientation.

Kavanagh's troubles began in October 1998 at West Valley High School, located 45 miles south of Palm Springs, when a parent demanded that her daughter not be taught by "the lesbian teacher." Kavanagh, said the parent, created a "hostile learning environment" by mentioning her female partner in class. The school agreed.

But a 1999 decision by the labor commissioner ordered the

district not to remove students from Kavanagh's class, and to delete any adverse records from Kavanagh's personnel file. The district appealed, but the Department of Industrial Relations is the school's highest administrative body, so last week's ruling stands. The ruling cites the California Labor Code that prohibits discrimination based on real or perceived sexual orientation, and mandates that the school district implement training on the rights of gay and lesbian teachers. This is the second such victory for Lambda; last year the nonprofit successfully represented teacher James Merrick in Bakersfield, who faced the same discrimination.

New Modesto lawsuit

Yet just as Kavanagh's victory became official, another lawsuit was filed charging anti-lesbian discrimination in California public schools. Attorneys Geoffrey Kors and Bryan Miller of San Francisco's Wotman, Kors, and Cloutier law firm announced on June 19 the filing of a federal civil rights lawsuit against the Modesto School District alleg-

ing that a lesbian teacher was fired because of her sexual orientation.

Laurel Ware, who moved to Modesto with her partner in 1998 and worked as a special education teacher, breezed through the school's two mandatory reviews for new teachers, earning good

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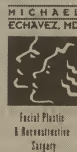
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Wrong decision on Boy Scouts

Yesterday's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court that the Boy Scouts of America can bar gays from serving as troop leaders is a bitter blow in the fight for equal rights. The 5-4 decision said that forcing the Scouts to accept gay troop leaders would violate the organization's rights of free expression and free association under the Constitution's First Amendment.

The opinion reversed a New Jersey Supreme Court decision in the case of James Dale. That decision held that the Scouts wrongly ousted Dale, an assistant scoutmaster, when it learned that he is gay. The state court said that the Scouts' action violated a New Jersey law banning discrimination in public accommodation.

In light of previous Supreme Court cases during the 1980s that allowed states to force organizations, such as the Jaycees and Rotary International, to admit women as full members, yesterday's ruling was somewhat of a surprise. Another previous court ruling allowed New York to stop large private clubs from discriminating against women and minorities.

But Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the court, didn't see the similarities between those cases and the Dale case. Instead, the court said that the law must yield to the Scout organization's right of "expressive association" under the First Amendment.

Attorneys for the Boy Scouts relied on a 1995 Supreme Court decision in which the private sponsor of the Boston St. Patrick's Day Parade was allowed to exclude a group of gays and lesbians, saying parades are a "form of expression."

While Rehnquist's opinion said that "it appears that homosexuality has gained greater societal acceptance" in recent times, he also stated that this was not reason enough to deny First Amendment protection to those who refuse to accept those views.

Rehnquist was right on one count when he wrote that the First Amendment "protects expression, be it of the popular variety or not."

But the court issued the wrong decision in this case.

The four dissenting justices — John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and Stephen G. Breyer — correctly concluded that the New Jersey law "does not impose any serious burdens" on the Boy Scouts' goals, "nor does it force [Scouts] to communicate any message that it does not wish to endorse."

The closeness of the decision reveals one major reason that a Republican should not be elected president this November. The next

president will have the opportunity to make appointments to the nation's highest court.

Yesterday's ruling also demonstrates the high court's inconsistent handling of cases involving gay rights. Most readers will recall the 1996 decision that struck down Colorado's homophobic Amendment 2, which would have barred ordinances giving gays legal protection from discrimination in areas such as housing and employment. On the flip side, the court has repeatedly refused to hear cases challenging the Clinton administration's failed "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy on gays in the military.

The decision in the Boy Scouts case also sends the wrong message to young people in particular and Americans in general: Discrimination is still acceptable when it comes to gays.

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community must press forward with educating Americans in all walks of life, and we must continue to show our strength in numbers by coming out of the closet and demanding equality.

The Boy Scouts is just one organization, and perhaps this ruling comes as a wake-up call to the need for more programs for LGBT youth. We need programs that can work to help young people and at the same time counter the obvious homophobia so prevalent in the Boy Scouts organization, particu-

larly at the national level. It's been recently reported that the national organization is funded in part by right-wing religious groups, and that they have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo.

Locally, groups such as Scouting for All should be supported, as that organization is working to change the Boy Scouts from within, which is the way change usually occurs.

If there is a bright spot in the ruling, it's that the decision is limited, according to the American Civil Liberties Union. "Anti-gay groups did not get the 'free pass' they were looking for to dismantle civil rights laws that provide equal protection to lesbians and gay men," said Matt Coles, director of

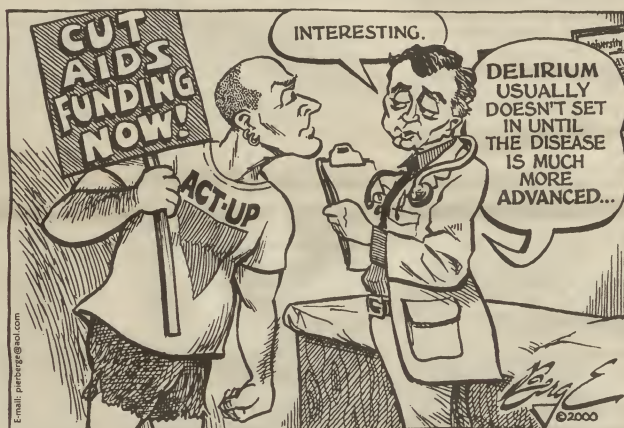
ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. According to Coles, the ruling will not reach far beyond groups like the Boy Scouts.

Coles said that the most troubling aspect of the decision is the court's acceptance of the Scouts' decision not to exclude heterosexual scout leaders who oppose the organization's anti-gay policies, but to exclude openly gay scout leaders. "The court has essentially said that freedom of speech gives an organization the right to discriminate on the basis of an individual's identity, rather than a message that is in conflict with the group's views."

Yesterday's ruling is out of step with the critical social need for non-discrimination laws. ▼



Editorial



Nothing new in Rent Boys flick

by Steven Stacks

As a "rent boy" myself, I feel compelled to make a public response to Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato's film *101 Rent Boys*.

The film opens with a vague, trite comment about how — Surprise! hustlers have things in common with the human race. That nicety being out of the way, the following techniques are used. The audio and video are edited "cause it looked cool," so that the expression on the subjects' faces don't always match the tone of what they're saying. Extended close-ups, accompanied by long uncomfortable silences, are edited into the requisite number of sad-eyed, lip-biting shots to create the "proper mood." The subjects are asked to remove their clothes. What? No they're not johns! They're just "artists" who want to have guys get naked so they can ask them personal questions. Additionally, those workers who I know personally to be involved with social causes, political activism, or the arts are edited down to only the most basic of comments, presumably to avoid making the subject matter too complex.

The best part though, is the "psychological test" of waving the workers' \$50 fee at them on camera. They either grab it in annoyance, respond with humor, or calmly wait for it to be handed to them. It's a sensationalist act that emphasizes what is supposed to make Us Us and Them Them, and

it's generally denigrating and rude (try waving the money you owe a store clerk for your purchases at them and then pulling it away — it's a "psychological test"), but that's all worth the "deep insight" into the subjects' psyche.

While introducing the film, and when discussing their motivations, Bailey and Barbato's comments included such bon mots as "we thought this would be the easiest film we ever made, we were surprised to find out that all these guys had stories" and "we thought hey, this'll pack the Castro!" When asked in the Q&A following the film if they felt any sense of responsibility toward the subjects they had portrayed as so desperate and pathetic, they charmed us all further with comments such as "We gave them the \$50 and that was the extent of our involvement" (the income, notoriety, and portfolio-padding offered by the film not counting as involvement I suppose).

The sex work industry is an unregulated field and one which requires minimal resources to enter into and thus draws its share of the otherwise unemployable, and yes, desperate or hopeless. An intelligent person can distinguish however, between the problems faced by a homeless or drug-abusing (characteristics often associated with, but not caused by sex work) individual who does the only thing they think they can

and an informed, capable, and talented professional sex worker. Bailey and Barbato mentioned in the Q&A following the film that they were unwilling to pay their subjects more than \$50 an interview, skipping those escorts who refused to compromise on their hourly fee. They then were surprised when they couldn't find the material in the footage they had to make "an up-up with hustlers film" like they'd "wanted to." I know that money is tight for independent filmmakers, but the real issue is the director's priorities. In this case, they simply had nothing more than prurient interest and no real understanding of their subjects.

Picture the days when straight directors handled gay material as ineptly, reducing the "gay lifestyle" to alcoholism, unrequited love, and eventual suicide.

Not only was this film bad art, but it's the kind of propaganda that not only fosters the climate that led to some of their subjects very exploitation, but that makes it that much more difficult for myself, the other sex workers I know, and highly sexual women, people into S&M or queers for that matter, to live our lives honestly without being viewed as idiots or deviants. The fact is that Bailey and Barbato have made another film depicting sex workers as victims and losers. Not exactly a new approach to the subject. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

SFAF's selective memory

San Francisco AIDS Foundation Board Chair Lonnie Payne's June 15 letter to the editor charging the BAR with unethical, unprofessional misrepresentation of facts is laughable. He takes license himself with a select few bits of information and using revisionist history presented as a full airing of the facts.

While Payne correctly indicated the transfer of a case management contract was done by the city's AIDS Office in 1998, he claims "clients continued to receive the same case management services they had previously" and that "not a single individual lost services." According to the B.A.R.'s July 23, 1998 article "SFAF to kill HIV+ Latinos Life and Movement" by Cynthia Laird, Dr. Estela Garcia of Instituto Familiar de la Raza, indicated the IFR case management budget was also cut and could potentially only accommodate 20 to 25 of SFAF's 159 Latinos in the Vida program. In the same article, Brenda Storey at Mission Neighborhood Health Center indicated MNHC lost a half-time case management position and that MNHC would only be able to accommodate 26 Vida clients. To my reading, if IFR and MNHC only absorbed 46 to 51 of the Vida clients, 108 to 113 Vida clients may have been left without case management services.

SFAF's Susan Haikalis and Derek Gordon contended that the program was cut to avoid duplication of case management services. Payne deftly avoided discussing why, if there was a duplication of services with some clients having two, and often three or four case managers at other agencies in addition to their SFAF case manager, as Haikalis alleged on July 30, 1998, SFAF waited to cut the program and transfer Vida clients only after SFAF lost the CARE funding. Did SFAF not have an ethical responsibility to avoid duplication of services to begin with? Nor did Payne address both Garcia and Storey's assertion that there was no duplication of services between Vida and IFR and MNHC, nor Garcia's indication that the "impact on the Latino community is that case management is being reduced."

Nor does Payne fully air concerns expressed by City Treasurer Susan Leal that "it's incomprehensible that they're [SFAF] reducing programs for people of color because that's where [HIV] cases are on the rise," nor does Payne address Supervisor Tom Ammiano's concern that "I think people deserve special programs and I am willing to work with SFAF to reinstitute VIDA."

SFAF's use of misinformation and selective facts is rampant: one such example is a variety of AIDS Walk fundraising materials featuring a single photo of Lonnie Payne. Nowhere in the various pieces featuring his photo is there mention that he is the SFAF board chair, giving people unfamiliar with SFAF the impression that he's just a regular citizen joining the fundraising event in memory of his twin brother (for which I empathize with his loss). Would it have hurt attendance by having mentioned he is board chair in the pieces? It certainly would have been more honest.

Regarding Payne's allegation that the B.A.R.'s portrayal of SFAF as "secretive" is inaccurate, how "secretive" is this: On December 20, 1999 I wrote SFAF asking for budget information for their current Assumptions (How Do You Know What You Know?) media campaign. On February 2, 2000 (44 days later) I received a reply from SFAF's Lance Henderson, deputy director of finance and administration, in which he initially responded approximately \$36,347 was budgeted. It took a lengthy series of letters, e-mails, and phone calls before I received on April 26 (four months after my December request) a letter from Mr. Henderson indicating the Assumptions budget stood at \$340,846, nearly a 10-fold increase from their initial misinformation. Had I not persisted in pursuing this, the misinformation would have remained "secret."

Payne must be tuning a deaf ear to the issue of secrecy surrounding Pat Christen's salary: though everyone is very tired of kvetching over the scandal of her salary, the fact remains that it takes 11 months after a given 12-month salary period to find out what they pay her.

It is time our community demand change from the SFAF.

Patrick Monette-Shaw
San Francisco

ACT UP founder lets loose

I am the cofounder of Gay Men's Health Crisis Inc., this country's first AIDS service organization, and the founder of ACT UP, the AIDS protest organization. I am certain many people are aware of the many historically important deeds ACT UP has fought to bring about, most particularly the acceleration of the FDA drug-approval process so that patients with life-threatening illnesses might obtain benefits years before they formerly were able to.

At the height of ACT UP's mobilizations, from the late 1980s and into the mid-1990s, there were some 140 chapters of ACT UP around the globe. Today, when activists and activism for any causes are hard to come by, there are still some dozen ACT UP chapters, much smaller certainly, working energetically to eradicate AIDS.

Unfortunately, because ACT UP chapters can be set up by anyone (under the all-too-democratic principles that we tried to live by for so many years), several groups calling themselves ACT UP have been

usurped by people who do not stand for the code of ethics and beliefs, and moral humanitarianism, that motivate the original chapters. I specifically refer to people calling themselves ACT UP/San Francisco, ACT UP/Hollywood, ACT UP/Atlanta, and ACT UP/Toronto. All of these have been infiltrated by a number of people whose behavior I can only characterize as psychopathic, people who lie and cause great willful damage. I cannot for the life of me comprehend what motivates them. To maintain that AIDS is not caused by HIV, to disrupt government and other official hearings to argue that money should not be voted for AIDS research and patient aid, to utilize vicious smear campaigns and to threaten legitimate activists and ACT UP members with actual physical harm is beyond any intelligent comprehension. Truly, in the face of our worldwide plague, such actions can only be construed as crazy.

I write this letter to ask that these people not be listened to, and to request that such aberrant inhumane activities not be held against the wonderful work that legitimate ACT UP chapters have accomplished and continue to accomplish. I particularly point all this out to all members of the United States Congress and to foreign countries and their dignitaries who might have been swayed by the propaganda directed particularly at them. The fallacious deeds and arguments spewed by these distressing malcontents must not be allowed to disrupt the forthcoming and vitally important International AIDS Conference in Durban.

Larry Kramer
Founder, ACT UP
New York, New York

Sisters say 'Thanks'

On behalf of myself and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc., I would like to thank those who contributed to making the opening night of "Resurrection Bingo" such a smashing success: Donna Sachet, Gary Virginia, Jim Gateau, the Reverend Jim Mitulski, Emperor John Carrillo and Empress Susie Wong, a city supervisor who asked to remain anonymous, and the volunteers from MCC and Californians for Same-Sex Marriage.

I'm happy to report that we distributed \$1,000 in cash prizes to our near-capacity crowd while raising \$1,200 for our featured charities - Matt's Place and CaSSM.

Resurrection Bingo continues the first Thursday of each month, raising money for two different charities each time. We're increasing the prizes, bringing in more local celebrities, and expect the venue to sell out.

Charities that are interested in participating, or players who would like more information can contact us via our Web site: www.TheSisters.org.

Finally, thank you to all the players who came out in droves to make the debut of Resurrection Bingo a success. With your help, we've created a fun event that really benefits our community.

Sister Betty Does
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc.
San Francisco

A bathhouse history

To those who would admonish the powers-that-be for "keeping the bathhouses padlocked," I would like to elucidate on the issue for you.

No city anywhere has "allowed" a bathhouse to open or re-open. If they tried, that mayor or city council or whatever would have to face massive political fallout for supporting such a thing, gay sex being perceived by non-gays as too icky to even talk about. So neither San Francisco, the state of California, Mitchell "I swear I'm gay" Katz, nor Willie Brown is ever going to grant such a request.

In the 1970s, after Stonewall, there was a general sense of hatred toward any authority that tried to tell us gays what to do - obviously, for all of history they have been out to eradicate us and most of them would still like to see that happen. So when establishments that officially called themselves saunas and social clubs began installing massage rooms and workout rooms and showers for the sweaty athletes, we let it be known very clearly that the authorities were not welcome inside, and they understood why. They knew we would kick their ass if they didn't leave us alone, in our separate world. There were buzzers that doormen used to alert patrons when the inspectors would show up - in fact, the strict "membership" ritual that still exists in all bathhouses began from this same sort of deceptive tactic, throwing the cops off the gay sex scent. (Such a buzzer still exists at Hyde Street Recording Studios, but it was used to alert people of an imminent pot bust when cops would knock.)

The fact that men began going to these places looking for sex was secondary. With no specific laws allowing authorities to search and bust people for what is essentially a private act (not even sodomy laws allow warrantless intrusions), the sex on the premises just became the normal state of affairs.

Hope that helps to educate all you baby gays out there.

Christian Matthews
San Francisco

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The dean of leather columnists

It's about time I get off my complacent posterior to finally write a letter to the editor. My object is one of praise and pride. On Memorial Day weekend I attended - for the sixth time - the International Mr. Leather competition in Chicago. For anyone into leather, this is the ultimate family gathering and I strongly recommend any bona fide leather persons to make this trip at least once.

I want San Franciscans to know (although I am pretty sure they already do) that one of the suspenseful moments during the contest proceedings is when our own Mister Marcus is introduced and has the task of announcing the names of the 20 finalists in the contest. Of course he is eloquent in this role, often injecting just enough humor into one of the most tense moments for the contestants and their fans.

I am an avid reader of the writings of Mister Marcus. He is, after all, the dean of leather columnists. I am aware that New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, and a few other cities have papers that thankfully give press to leather. But in the final analysis, the granddaddy of them all for almost three decades is our Mister Marcus. So, hats off to Mister Marcus, who has championed all people of the leather/SM communities not only here in San Francisco but throughout the world.

Rolando DeCastabetti
San Francisco

Thanks to Michael Yaki

Toward the end of last year I chastised San Francisco Supervisors Michael Yaki and Amos Brown in a letter published here. The basis of my criticism had to do with their failure to support domestic partner health benefits in then ongoing contract negotiations at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. I would like to update the record.

After my letter appeared, Mr. Yaki took a proactive role in seeing that the Air District include the domestic partner benefit and was heard to state, "the matter of domestic partnership healthcare is a given it should never even have been an item for negotiation."

That comment tends to confirm my suspicion that the Air District's directors have been ill informed, if not left in the dark, by their own negotiating team. Our labor negotiations were never resolved. On June 7 all but three members of our 20-member board voted to impose a contract on Air District employees that strips us of basic employee rights and flagrantly violates a number of basic California labor laws. Mr. Yaki was one of those three dissenters.

I owe Michael Yaki my thanks for his stands. Not so the Reverend Brown, however, who appears to remain as disdainful of gay people and fair employment conditions as he is of the homeless who live out of shopping carts.

Will Taylor
San Francisco

Log off of AOL

This month, I canceled my three-year-old AOL account after receiving a term-of-service letter stating I had violated "community standards" because I had the following screen names: lkg4abtm; tophuntdfw, mascbutchbttm4now.

Obviously, I am gay, and I used these screen names exclusively in gay chat rooms in Dallas and Houston to look for sex. The letter said a permanent warning advisory had been placed in my customer file (yawn). The letter also demanded that I remove the screen names AOL objected to; reluctantly, I did.

About a week later, AOL changed my passwords because I created another screen name, topchaserdfw, which they also objected to. In that particular screen name's profile, I asked other gay men to send me an instant message to tell me if they had received a TOS letter for screen name issues, and in the profile, I also said that I was considering a class-action lawsuit against AOL because of the chilling effect of its TOS and First Amendment violations. I considered the change of passwords as harassment; it was also the final straw, and I closed the account.

But after my TOS letter, I did a word search of member profiles and found things I think many people would find objectionable. For example, I found the screen names "Lk2SukBgBreasts," "Millennium Dic," "DikDeepNU" as well as several others of the same vein. The only difference was, these were screen names from people looking for sex with the opposite gender, not the same gender.

When I called AOL's muffled and incompetent staff - God knows they have no power - all they could say is, someone in your area probably reported several screen names at the same time, and that's why all of you got the same letter at the same time. Oh yeah? So AOL is so stupid that it allows itself to be manipulated by a group of people offended by gay people looking for sex?

It is sad that in the end AOL's disdain for gays looking for sex will come glaring up into the light. As much as they may try to deny it - as did a customer service representative who tried to get me to stay by offering two free months of service, and who said there's no way AOL could be anti-gay because there's

"so many gay people working here" - AOL is anti-gay, inasmuch as they will let other "offensive" and "sexually suggestive" yet heterosexually oriented screen names fly by the wayside while they devote their taxed human resources to ruffling up their gay clientele, many of whom stuck with the company in the mid-1990s when it was about to go down the tubes.

I can only hope gay consumers will cancel their AOL accounts and move to another Internet service provider as soon as possible.

Stephen R. Underwood
Dallas, Texas

AIDS denialists and Catholics

Every week I pick up the B.A.R. and turn immediately to the country's best forum of queer voices. Week after week, I am astonished by the honesty and generosity of letter-writers who bare their souls while sharing their wit and wisdom.

I cheered on Mikel Levi, who takes on the evil empire of Roman Catholicism ["Another lesson, another attack," *Mailstrom*, June 22].

Then I read the Larry, Curly and Moe of AIDS denial: Jerry McPherson of HEAL/SE, speaking "the ugly truth;" Dick Trostler defending the "renowned" Dr. Peter Duesberg; and Gene Franks, who wants a fair hearing for ACT UP/San Francisco and hypes their right to dissent.

First I laughed out loud, then I marveled these stooges' dopiness, and finally I got angry.

Then I realized how right the AIDS deniers are about so many things. Sure as hell there's an AIDS industry - full of shameful cowards, weak-hearted careerists and the insanely greedy. Hundreds of millions have indeed been squandered on bad science and pushing poisonous medications. Recreational and "therapeutic" drugs have surely damaged many immune systems.

Like the AIDS deniers, I wouldn't trust my life to many a renowned "AIDS doc," nor would I trust the lying, thieving, and profiteering pharmaceutical manufacturers. As for the American public health establishment - well, they really are the ones who brought us AIDS. In August 1983, when I published my first front-page article on AIDS risk reduction, the official U.S. AIDS tally was less than 2,000 people - and public health docs sat on their hands in silence.

What infuriates me about the AIDS deniers is that they come to the most dangerous conclusions. In that, they're just like Mikel Levi's deservedly-feared Catholic clergymen. Both groups share a know-nothing, anti-scientific bias; an unshakable conviction that, because of their minority position, they are right and everybody else is wrong; and a touching devotion to their own brilliance - notwithstanding their vast ignorance and awesome, repellent lack of experience.

Who else but "eunuchs by choice" (Catholic priests and bishops) would presume to pontificate on sexual ethics and morality for the benefit of people who actually have sex? And who else but presumptive practitioners of unsafe sex (AIDS deniers) would take to the soap boxes to encourage others to participate in a holocaust of people whom they claim to love?

Like the Catholic clergy, AIDS deniers wrap themselves in the flags of half-truths and hypocritically speak up for the rights of others - rights that they, themselves, deny the very minute they have an opportunity. We queers should cling to our right to dissent - and use it to ridicule whackos. By its denotation, "dissent" implies honorable wisdom in advance of its time.

Nothing could be further from the truth when it comes to AIDS denial.

These ostriches are dope-smoking fuck-ups who seem to get everything at least half wrong, who left college because they flunked every hard science course and who fuck around, presumably spreading deadly viruses (HIV, hepatitis B and C) to those whom they claim to love.

But, wait! It's all the fault of poppers! Guess what? Real AIDS activists like Hank Wilson of ACT UP/Golden Gate - now Survive AIDS - have campaigned against poppers on and off for 15 years. Why don't the self-righteous, HIV-spreading AIDS deniers, so zealous in their condemnation and assaults on others, go after those who purvey poppers?

For the record, the sale of poppers is prohibited under the Crime Control Act of 1990. Because of a gutless Congress, however, enforcement of the popper-ban is in the hands of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. That toothless tiger responds to complaints by sending offenders a "cease and desist" letter, giving them a month to "just quit it."

Is it time to go after the poppers merchants? How about the "recreational" drug dealers, the beer and whiskey merchants, and the tobacco pushers?

Oh, I forgot. Blood-borne viral infections, cirrhosis and cancer - like AIDS - are over!

John Birmingham
San Francisco

Send signed letters to: Bay Area Reporter,
395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

POLITICS

Could a Gore-Ventura ticket be a possibility?

by Wayne Friday

With several national polls continuing to show Texas Republican Governor **George W. Bush** leading Vice President **Al Gore** — some by as much as 12 percentage points in the latest Voter.com-Battleground Poll (although this week's *Newsweek* poll shows Bush leading Gore 42 percent to 40 percent, a statistical tie) — and with Bush continuing to attract pivotal Gore voters like women and union members, some presidential campaign followers in both parties took particular note of Gore's visit last week to Minnesota, the home state of independent Governor **Jesse Ventura**, who was elected that state's chief executive two years ago as the nominee of the Reform Party.

Ventura has since left the Reform Party and considers himself a "political independent." Seemingly fast becoming friends, the vice president and governor spent the better part of two days together in Minnesota last week, some of the time in private discussions that both described as being "about everything except politics." While those who know both Gore and Ventura say that "at the moment it isn't likely to happen" some of these same people are no longer ruling out the long shot possibility that Gore could pull off the "mother of all political surprises" and ask the popular Minnesota governor to be his November running mate.

At the very least, a Ventura endorsement of Gore for president either during the Democratic convention or shortly thereafter is now considered a real possibility. Those close to Ventura say privately that the governor doesn't like Bush and although he hasn't said so yet, both Ventura and his wife are said to prefer Gore for president. While both Gore and Ventura insist that the relationship the two have developed in the past year is more about friendship than political alliance, aides to both men say the new friendship is, in part, because of Gore's beliefs and policies — particularly in areas like Gore's insistence that the federal government should live up to a pledge made back in 1975 to pay 40 percent of the costs states now bear for special education. Currently the government only pays up to 13 percent of those costs. Ventura, whose daughter has a learning disability and attends special education classes, says he backs Gore's proposal fully; aides of Ventura say he also supports Gore's stances on several other policies.

Gore and Ventura first got to know each other when they met last March as Gore was campaigning in Minnesota; aides to both men said they knew that private meeting went well when they heard loud laughter floating from behind closed doors during the hourlong session. Recently, Ventura and his wife visited the Gores at the vice president's residence in Washington, spending an evening touring the grounds, having a private dinner, and staying overnight at the vice presidential home. Last week, Ventura and his wife re-

turned the favor, hosting Al and **Tipper Gore** at the 46th annual Tanbark Cavalcade of Roses Horse Show, where Ventura's daughter, **Jade**, was competing on her own horse. The governor and Mrs. Ventura then hosted a private dinner for the vice president and his wife; the Gores spent the night in the governor's mansion. The next day, Gore and Ventura made several appearances together and during one of them, Gore received a phone call from CNN News and after he handed the phone to Ventura, the governor was heard answering CNN by barking into the phone: "What do you mean 'what am I doing spending the day with Al Gore?' He's the vice president of the United States."

During an appearance on ABC's *This Week* program last Sunday, Ventura spoke well of Gore, telling **Sam Donaldson** that the latest demand from Republican lawmakers that yet another special investigator be named to look into Gore's 1996 fundraising practices was "probably much ado about nothing," as the governor pointedly pooh-poohed the idea.

While in the past Ventura has always said he was "definitely not interested in being anyone's vice president," insisting that "I only want to serve out my term as Minnesota's governor" — even going so far as insisting that the only way he would even consider running for vice president with a man like Arizona Senator **John McCain**, a man he "deeply admires," is for McCain to leave the Republican Party and run as an independent candidate.

Ventura told ABC last Sunday, when asked if he would accept an offer to run on the Democratic ticket with Gore, that "it is unlikely that I would be asked, though nothing is out of the question," a radical change from statements in the past on the subject. Ventura said that if Gore made such an offer, "I'd judge the offer, meet with my wife about it and then make a decision."

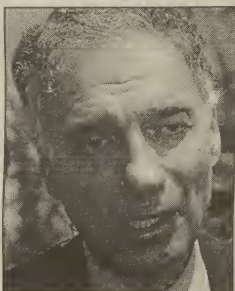
Observers from both the Democratic and Republican parties were saying this week that Ventura's remarks on ABC were certainly different from his previous statements on the subject. Minnesota, where Ventura remains immensely popular, is normally a Democratic state when it comes to presidential elections, but it is thought this year to be neck and neck between Gore and Bush and some actually think Bush might at the moment be ahead in Minnesota among independent voters, the group of voters most closely allied with Ventura.

Again, while most political observers feel it is unlikely, though not impossible, that Gore would offer the vice presidential nomination to Ventura, if the polls continue to show Bush and Gore close, or Bush to be ahead as the GOP convention opens on July 31, or if Bush were to choose a running mate in July who is a political moderate — say like Pennsylvania Governor **Tom Ridge** or New Jersey Governor **Christine Whitman**, then Gore might be more likely to pull off a big politi-

cal surprise and offer to make Ventura his running mate. At the very least, even some Republicans are now fearing that Ventura appears ready to eventually endorse Gore for president and that alone could make the difference in the November election among independent-minded voters and would likely make Gore the winner over Bush.

Politics and people

Green Party presidential nominee **Ralph Nader**, a longtime consumer advocate do-gooder who spends much of his time in a



Ralph Nader

low-rent, studio apartment in Washington's DuPont Circle area, who talks like a poor boy consumed with causes of the poor, who loves to trash the rich of Silicon Valley, and who refused to disclose his finances when he ran four years ago, finally was forced to admit this year that he himself is a multi-millionaire who owns more than \$1 million in Cisco stock alone. Then during an appearance on NBC's *Meet the Press* last Sunday, Nader confessed what most already knew his candidacy was really all about when he was asked by moderator Tim Russert: "Would it bother you at all if your entry into this presidential contest results directly in the election of Republican George W. Bush?" Nader (smiling): "Not at all."

Then there's **Patrick Buchanan**, who is screaming at the top of his homophobic lungs demanding to be allowed into the upcoming presidential debates, last week promptly turning down the request to debate **John Hagelin**, his only rival for the Reform Party presidential nomination. Hagelin already has the support of several state chairs of the Reform Party as well as **Jim Mangia**, the party's openly gay national secretary. Hagelin, a supporter of gay rights, who says he will carry the fight in the party all the way to the August 10-13 convention in Long Beach, already has the nomination of the Natural Law Party and says Buchanan's refusal to debate him for the Reform Party nod "undermines Buchanan's moral authority" to be included in the fall debates. Hagelin is expected to pick up the endorsement this week of **Lenora Fulani**, a 1992 nominee of the New Alliance Party, who last week quit as chair of Buchanan's campaign effort.

No wonder Texas Governor George W. Bush managed to be out of the state when the Texas Republican Party held its convention recently; among the issues adopted by Bush's home state GOP: total abolition of all income tax and the IRS; repealing all min-

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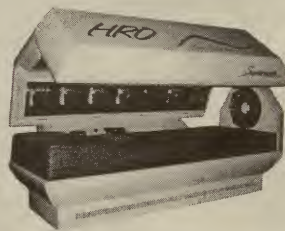
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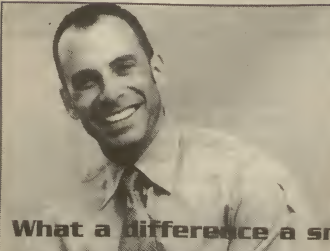
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MORGAN LANE



Rolling Stone finds the Boy Scouts don't deserve merit badges

compiled by GLAAD

On Wednesday, The U.S. Supreme Court issued its ruling on the *Boy Scouts of America v. James Dale* case, and said that the organization can bar gays from being Scout leaders. Many media outlets have been covering the story.

The July 6 issue of *Rolling Stone* contains an 11-page special report of the issue. Reporter Chuck Sudetic covers the basic information about James Dale and the case, but what makes this article stand out from other coverage is the research done on the business side of the BSA organization.

Sudetic reports that his investigations caused him to conclude there are two BSAs. The one is the volunteer local level where the boys actually take part in the organization. He says that is not as anti-gay as one would be led to believe. The other part is the salaried national leaders "whose well-being," he writes, "depends on constant fund-raising, much of it through alliances with old time conservative religious groups."

Sudetic found that about 35 percent of BSA sponsors are United Methodists, Mormons, or Roman Catholics. He concludes that much of the opposition to allowing gays into the BSA is based not on what is best for the boys, but on pleasing the anti-gay religious power structure so it does not stop funding.

"It is ironic," he writes, "that the BSA, whose program for developing self-esteem has proved so

effective, has chosen to bar adolescents who could arguably benefit more from the program than their straight peers."

Of interest also is the history sidebar that shows forms of BSA anti-gay sentiment dating back to 1911.

Please thank *Rolling Stone* for looking beyond the story of discrimination in the name of morality and delving into the possible self-serving reality of BSA leadership. It is an interesting read that raises questions not asked by many other media outlets.

At this time, the article is not available for viewing at www.rollingstone.com, but could be in the future.

Contact Bob Love, Managing Editor, *Rolling Stone*, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, 2nd Floor, New York, NY 10104-0101, fax: (212) 767-8203, e-mail: bobl@rollingstone.com.

Time out for Dr. Laura

Readers of the July 3 issue of *Time*, on stands now, will find what the newsmagazine calls an "exclusive interview" with Laura Schlessinger about the controversy surrounding her upcoming television show. In reality, the two-page article reads as if it went directly from Schlessinger's press officer to the pages of *Time* with no journalistic inquiry.

Writer Jeanne McDowell makes no real, if any, attempt to challenge Schlessinger or to frame the controversy. Her questions set Schlessinger up with opportunities to continue her campaign of misrepresenting what she has said

about the lesbian and gay community. Even though McDowell knows that GLAAD monitors Schlessinger's radio show every day and was sent copies of our transcripts, Schlessinger's false assertions that the LGBT community does not know what she says are printed as truth.

Most disturbing is how Schlessinger is allowed to repeatedly portray herself as a misunderstood victim of "lying" LGBT activists. McDowell asks: "What's been the toll the controversy with the gay community has taken?" Schlessinger replies: "I've cried more at times than I would like to admit because to see my name, my character, my person comes under attack. ... It's astonishing to have your name smeared with such vitriol. It's been agonizing."

While reading the article, one is reminded of Schlessinger's radio show monologues where she espouses her views in absolute terms and only provides additional material from people or organizations, no matter how discredited and suspect, that agree with her.

Time's lack of probing allows no room for the other side of the controversy. What is truly problematic is the lack of mentioning how Schlessinger's pseudo-clinical diatribes dehumanize lesbians and gay men, leaving them open to "justified" unfair treatment, hatred, and violence. The magazine could have at least sought comments from GLAAD or other LGBT people. It could have checked the facts rather than let Schlessinger make up "the facts" as she went along.

Time must hear from all fair-minded people who object to this article's glaring omissions and

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Gay rights and moral wrongs

by Dale Carpenter

What right do we have to make moral judgments about the behavior of others? Large numbers of us seem to think it's none of our business.

Not long ago I was watching a TV program featuring two gay men who adopted a baby. When the child was born, prematurely, his blood contained every recreational drug under the sun, including cocaine, alcohol, marijuana,

and others that go by some letter or another of the alphabet soup of the drug culture. The mother had abused all of these substances during her pregnancy and left her baby her resulting addictions. The very model of loving parents, the two men nurtured the boy to health and today have a happy, well-adjusted child.

Yet the adoptive parents pronounced themselves unable to judge the biological mother's behavior while pregnant. If you have never seen a baby born with a cocaine addiction, you have never seen horror. The babies are born so small and weak they can hardly breathe. They shake uncontrollably as their bodies detoxify from the addiction. Many die. If we cannot condemn the choices that led to such a result, there is scarcely any behavior we can condemn.

Though they didn't directly say so, I suspect their reluctance to criticize the biological mother is another expression of a familiar theme in gay culture. The experience of stigma because of our homosexuality appears to have led many of us to reject morals altogether, or at least to reject the public expression of them, along with the notion that they serve a useful social function.

The irony is that the very idea of gay equality puts these same people at odds with their professed desire to keep morals and values out of the public square. What, after all, is the famous slogan "Gay is Good" except a public claim about morals, an attempt to persuade others that the reigning moral code about homosexuality is profoundly wrong and, in fact, has it backwards? The argument for gay equality is a moral claim made very much in public, just as the struggle of the black civil rights movement was at bottom a moral claim about racism.

Our civil rights movement holds that homophobia has no place on a list of values worth preserving. We argue that practicing and advocating anti-gay bigotry is reprehensible. That is an inescapably moral judgment, because it is a judgment about how people should think and behave.

The method for advancing that judgment is public argument about homosexuality. That is exactly the process of refinement and testing of values that should happen in a marketplace of morals. I think we are winning that debate, slowly, and that homophobia is losing. But we can't make that judgment at all if we are embarrassed even to talk about morals.

Here's an example of what I mean by the usefulness of a public discussion of morals. It would be useful to discuss the shallowness of the alcohol-crystal-sex-body-circuit-party mindset.

We could suggest an alternative set of values that puts more emphasis on things like the development of the mind, a commitment to something other than hedonism, and religious faith. Such a discussion about values might suggest a new norm of behavior in gay life. Yet the don't-judge-others

things I think are wrong but I don't think should be illegal. Listening for pleasure to Barry Manilow, for example, is an intrinsically disordered activity, evidence of a weak and pathetic disposition befitting the soupy mediocrity to which it pays homage. It should surely be condemned. But it should not be illegal.

The abuse of recreational drugs, as with the abuse of all pleasurable things, is a more serious individual failing than listening for pleasure to Barry Manilow. But individuals should generally be allowed to fail and learn from their failings without having the law stick its heavy and clumsy hand into the mix.

On the other hand, why not help drug abusers learn by creating a culture that disdains that failing? What if, instead of laughing off or ignoring such abuses for fear of appearing judgmental, we criticized it? It might save a lot of heartache, money, and lives. There is something to gain from having

The experience of stigma because of our homosexuality appears to have lead many of us to reject morals altogether, or at least to reject the public expression of them, along with the notion that they serve a useful social function.

mentality would criticize us for holding the circuit-party crowd to any set of morals other than the ones they adopt themselves.

Another such question for the marketplace of morals concerns whether promiscuity or monogamy is better. Groups like Sex Panic! think that promiscuity is a fine thing. Others believe that promiscuity, whatever its allure, is ultimately empty and soul-draining. The moral that we reach a consensus on, if any, may be that the whole matter is very individual and that there isn't a single rule for all people.

That's not to say we should necessarily impose morals through law. There are many

a public discussion about it and then assessing individual behavior against the consensus that emerges from that discussion.

One thing that could unite us as gay civil rights advocates is that at some point we should be willing to enter a conversation about what is right and what is wrong with gay life. That could separate us from those who would wholly abandon the field of morals, dangerously leaving the terrain to the religious right. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.



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GLAAD

◀ page 10

Schlessinger's misrepresentations of the LGBT community. Let *Time* know how much Schlessinger's words affect your daily lives, how her refusal to take responsibility for the damage she causes should not be excused, and how you expect there to be a fact-based article that looks at the controversy from all sides - not just Schlessinger's self-serving, often untrue point of view.

The article can be viewed at www.time.com/time/daily/0,2960,48069-101000625,00.html

Contact Letters to the Editor, Time, Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, NY 10020, fax: (212) 522-8949, e-mail: letters@time.com.

Newspaper stands by kissing-men photo

After the June 5 edition of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* ran a photo of Tim Molloy and Brian Duck kissing at their wedding reception, the newspaper received a great deal of comment from readers. Some were supportive and appre-

ciated the innocuous photo, which showed the tuxedoed men standing by a fancy three-tiered wedding cake, but the majority of comments came from readers expressing the usual fire and brimstone, what-about-the-children anger, disgust, outrage, and more.

Responding to the comments, Carolyn Kingcade, the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* readers' advocate, wrote a response that was published in the June 11 edition, titled "The complete picture sometimes can be more than readers want." She points out that the photo was used in the paper's "Point of View" feature on the commentary page, which has the purpose of running photos "that carry a message and provoke reflection." While acknowledging people's feelings and opinions, Kingcade notes that the photo caused "more reactions than reflections."

The newspaper does not apologize for running the photo and goes on the say that "an important role for a newspaper is to show readers a more complete picture of the world."

Please thank the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* for running the photo

that shows this positive side of the gay community. The newspaper knew full well it would be stirring up its conservative audience, but went ahead and was inclusive. Second, thank it for not saying it made a mistake in running the photo, even though that would have been the easy way to appease the angry readers.

The article and letters can be viewed at www.postnet.com/postnet/pnhelp.nsf/arcsearch for a fee.

Contact Christine Bertelson, Editorial Editor, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, 900 N. Tucker Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63101, fax: (314) 340-3139, e-mail: letters@postnet.com, put Attention C. Bertelson in subject line. ▼

GLAAD promotes fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Contact GLAAD by e-mail at glaad@glaad.org or by phone at (415) 861-2244. Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's toll-free AlertLine 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

Crime surprisingly light during Pride

by Jane Warner

Overall crime incidents in the Castro over Pride weekend were slim, with most businesses reporting surprisingly few problems.

Last Saturday, June 24, a cook from Orphan Andy's was threatened by a panhandler. Walgreens called to report a group of men standing on the news rack per-

forming oral sex. Baghdad Cafe called police regarding people dancing on the restaurant roof. Badland's doorman observed police arrest a man for drunken behavior. A woman was assaulted during the Dyke March, and two men were arrested.

Last Sunday, June 25, the Porta-Potty fronting Uncle Bert's was torched and melted to the ground. The Midnight Sun asked police to escort one person out for

drunken behavior.

An unofficial count of people arrested in the Castro for drinking-related offenses was eight. There were no arrests during the Pride Parade or at the festival at Civic Center. ▼

The SF Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.

State shows compassion for TG prisoner

by Katie Szymanski

It took countless phone calls, the filing and re-filing of official papers, and a show of family and public support to make it happen: one of the first compassionate releases of the new millennium was granted by state Department of Corrections Director Cal Terhune last week to a 32-year-old transgendered woman dying of AIDS and valley fever.

Keith Wayne Sellers - a.k.a. Kee Kee - has less than a few weeks to live and poses no threat

to society, according to doctors at Corcoran State Prison, a men's facility where Sellers was serving 30 years for an unarmed robbery. Sellers had also lost 50 pounds in a month and was unable to walk, according to members of the HIV in Prison Committee of California Prison Focus, the group that presented the release request to the state. The prison warden endorsed Sellers's release, as did the original sentencing judge. California legislators such as Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and state Senator Tom Hayden (D-

Los Angeles) got involved, placing phone calls and sending letters of support. And, as outlined by Section 1170 of the penal code, Sellers exceeded eligibility standards for a compassionate release. Still, Terhune denied the original request, then denied it again on appeal.

Finally, last Friday, June 23, the HIP Committee received word that their advocacy had been successful; Sellers was released Monday June 26 is now in a Loma Linda hospital close to her family.

"Kee Kee's release is a tremendous victory in the battle for compassionate release of all terminally ill prisoners," said HIP Committee spokeswoman Judy Greenspan.

Compassionate release for dying prisoners is extremely rare in California, despite the fact that it is a part of state law. Still, the victory for Kee Kee shows that while obstacles abound, it is possible to successfully advocate for a dying person to spend her final few days in comfort. ▼

Women prisoners benefit Fri.

by Katie Szymanski

It's no secret to many activists that a women's prison sentence can mean a punishment that also includes sexual harassment and assault, inadequate if not lethal health care, and an inhumane living environment. To raise public consciousness of these conditions, FolkDiva Records presents "Rattle the Cage," a benefit for women prisoners, that takes place this Friday, June 30, at the spacious Berkeley nightspot Ashkenaz.

"Rattle the Cage" features food, refreshments, alcohol for those over 21, and a diverse entertainment lineup that includes the

acoustic trio Rebecca Riots, the a cappella groups Copper Wimin and Making Waves, songwriters Green, Helen Chaya, and Rachel Garlin, folk duo Anna & Eileen, and the still dancing troupe Women Walking Tall.

The all-ages show is \$8-\$15 sliding scale, which benefits the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, an advocacy group that fights for prison health care and against abuse by prison guards. With the passage of Proposition 21, the group will soon have to expand its outreach to the many youth who become incarcerated.

Ashkenaz is located at 1317 San Pablo Avenue in Berkeley, and doors open at 8 p.m. for Friday's event. ▼

SFAF

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one of the fundamental flaws in the simplistic analyses that continue to be promoted by that fucking destructive asshole Chuck [Henry]," wrote Hopkins.

Hopkins's missive provoked a letter to Christen from John F. Schunhoff, Henry's supervisor in Los Angeles, "I acknowledge that Los Angeles County and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation have significant policy disagreements

with respect to the formula used to distribute resources of Title I of the Ryan White CARE Act. But, it is important that disagreements are respectful and not permitted to become personal attacks, threats, and misrepresentations."

"I think we owe them an apology. I think that comments that Ernest made in the e-mail were inappropriate and unprofessional," said Christen, adding that Hopkins had presumed his e-mail would be kept private by its recipient. "It was a mistake." ▼

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San Francisco's Pride weekend! Top: Members of Transaction stepped in front of the SF Police Department's parade contingent to call attention to transphobia. Upper left: Two people had a great time at the Faerie Freedom Village. Upper right: Two guys danced. Above: Assemblywoman Carole Migden presided over the same-sex domestic partner ceremony. Left: Parade marchers showed their displeasure with ACT UP/San Francisco. Bottom: Women at the rally before last Saturday's Dyke March.



Jane Philomen Cleland



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*Based on vertex studies at 2 years of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss. There is not evidence that PROPECIA works for receding hairlines at the temples.

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Clinical tests showed PROPECIA was very well tolerated. Only a very small number of men had some sexual side effects, with each occurring in less than 2% of men. They included less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. When the men who had these side effects stopped taking PROPECIA, the side effects went away.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION YOU SHOULD KNOW

PROPECIA is for men only. Women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA because of the risk that the active ingredient may cause a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Product Information for details.) Likewise, they should avoid handling the tablets when they're crushed or broken. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

WHEN YOU COULD SEE RESULTS

Take PROPECIA daily and you could see results in as little as three months. If you stop taking it, however, your results will gradually go away over twelve months. And if it hasn't worked in twelve months, it is unlikely to be of benefit.

For more information, call 1-888-637-2548 or visit our website at www.propecia.com/info.

PROPECIA is available by prescription only, so the best thing to do is talk to your doctor.

Know the facts. Many men do, which is probably why over 30,000 prescriptions for PROPECIA are filled each week.**

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

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Propecia® (Finasteride) Tablets

Patient Information about PROPECIA®
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PROPECIA® is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s. Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. All men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel™ Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Who should **NOT** take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

In general use, the following have been reported infrequently: allergic reactions including rash, itching, hives and swelling of the lips and face; problems with ejaculation; breast tenderness and enlargement; and testicular pain.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual side effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.

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Propecia® (Finasteride) Tablets

Overdose

◀ page 1

medics first arrived. Witnesses described a surreal atmosphere in the bathroom, as the man's dead body lay covered in a sheet.

"It's still business as usual," said a witness who asked to remain anonymous. "With the patrons walking around, the cops guarding the corpse. And two doors away someone had their butt in the air! What the hell is this? Necro-day at the tubs?"

The witness was so overcome with emotion he broke down briefly as he described Kohnhofer's limp body being dragged to a hallway and being worked on in vain by paramedics.

Another witness, Carl Heimann, told the B.A.R. that when he left Steamworks at 4 p.m., the body was still in the aisle and a temporary screen was set up around it.

Cotten said it was an awkward situation for the bathroom because they didn't know how long it would take before the coroner would remove the body. He said because the police activity was quiet, many of the patrons didn't know what was going on.

Cotten recalled that in the past two years, Steamworks has had to deal with one other death that may have been drug related. That man had a heart attack that may have been the result of combining poppers and Viagra. In that case, what happened was less obvious to patrons because paramedics never took the man from his room and he was left there until coroner's employees arrived.

Cotten said drug overdoses are relatively rare at the club. Berkeley's Deputy Fire Chief Deborah Pryor told the B.A.R. paramedics were called to the Steamworks six times this year to assist people who were having medical emergencies. She said she didn't know how many of those medical emergencies were drug related.

Steamworks has a reputation for being very proactive in its health and drug education efforts. Cotten is employed full-time by

the club to coordinate its health and drug education programs.

"All of us are wracking our brains to see what more we can do," said Cotten.

All customers' bags are searched before they enter and the bathroom's walls are peppered with anti-drug messages. Cotten said the signs are changed periodically so they don't become unnoticed wallpaper. Anti-drug announcements are also made over its public address system. Cotten told the B.A.R. that there's no way short of body cavity searches to completely ensure that drugs are never brought in.

Cotten said he hoped the message of the dangers of drugs will be driven home by Kohnhofer's senseless death.

"People don't get that drugs can kill you," said Cotten. "It may seem obvious but people miss it."

"Here was a 26-year-old man that everyone said was so energetic and full of life and now he's dead." ▼

SF Pride 2000

◀ page 1

er Dorothy Allison reminded them, "Dykes are dangerous. Go out there and try a little harder."

The Dyke March wove through the Mission and up into the Castro for the "Pink Saturday" street party. Unfortunately, some on-lookers couldn't pass up the chance for violence; at least one woman was assaulted en route when two men physically and verbally attacked the marchers (the men were arrested for the crime).

"It's very disturbing that men feel like they can get away with that crap in front of thousands of lesbians without getting killed," said Lisa Roth, a Dyke March organizer.

Overall, however, most women felt empowered by the event, especially those who traveled to San Francisco and had never seen that many lesbians before.

"The spirit," said Roth, "was fantastic. It was very intense."

Sunday's Pride Parade was



Alameda County Coroner's Department staff remove the body of Jason Scott Kohnhofer from the Steamworks.

Mark Leno

◀ page 1

against Leno, as gay activists Shawn O'Hearn and Gary Virginia. Other candidates also are likely to enter the race.

Leno's friend Michael Tilson Thomas, musical director of the San Francisco Symphony, was one of those who took to the podium. "I've known Mark for many, many years," he said. "He works for all the people and he is a person who judges a person or issue on their own true merits."

Other speakers included Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; BART board member Tom Radulovich; Isabel Wade from the Neighborhood Parks Council; and Zoanne Nordstrom, a longtime environmental activist.

Leno said the kickoff event raised \$60,000 for his re-election effort.

Tuesday, Leno recapped some of his accomplishments over the past two years, chief among them

the establishment of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, and legislation creating the medical marijuana identification card program. The transgender task force held its first meeting earlier this month and the medical cannabis ID cards are expected to be available through the Department of Public Health next month.

Other issues Leno has been involved with include the creation of the Small Business Commission, and drafting legislation to help protect small businesses. The supervisor also has worked to establish a queer youth transitional housing program in the Castro, though that proposal has been contested by some property owners in the area. A temporary city-funded shelter at the Golden Gate Metropolitan Community Church ended several weeks ago.

"These past two years at City Hall have been the best of my life," Leno said, adding that his re-election is about being able to continue the work he has started.

next page ▶

next page ▶

by David Batterson

SF Pride 2000

Mark Leno

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News from international HIV drug resistance workshop

by David Batterson

The Fourth International Workshop on HIV Drug Resistance and Treatment Strategies held in Sitges, Spain June 12-16 ended with announcements from several pharmaceutical and testing companies about new developments. The workshop brings together 250 of the world's top experts on HIV resistance for a four-day closed meeting each year. It's regarded as the most prestigious meeting on this subject.

Data From NARVAL study

Visible Genetics Inc. reported that preliminary six-month data from the NARVAL study showed a benefit to HIV patients who received HIV drug-resistance genotype testing over those patients who received standard care treatment. The NARVAL study – a French study – looked at the value of drug resistance testing in HIV treatment and patient management.

The 24-week data presented involved a total of 541 patients enrolled into three groups: standard of care, phenotyping, and genotyping. This is the largest prospective resistance testing study presented to date.

Patients in the study consisted of heavily pre-treated patients who had received a median of seven prior HIV drugs; they had an average viral load of 4.3 log copies/ml and an average CD4+ count of 300 cells/ml. The standard of care group was treated without any resistance test information provided to the physician. In the other two groups, resistance testing was performed either by genotyping or phenotyping.

Visible Genetics' Trugene HIV-1 Genotyping Kit was used in the genotyping group. Results showing the percent of patients achieving viral suppression (less than 200 copies/ml), at 24 weeks were 36 percent for genotyping, 27 percent for standard of care, and 26 percent for phenotyping. Results showing the percent of patients achieving viral suppression at both 12 and 24 weeks were 29 percent for genotyping, 17 percent for standard of care and 22 percent for phenotyping.

Visible Genetics CEO Richard Daly said the company was "pleased at the further confirmation that drug resistance testing using genotyping appears to be of benefit in the management of HIV patients undergoing antiretroviral therapy. These data are consistent with results from previous studies and provide a compelling argument for the use of genotyping in HIV patient management."

In the last six months, support for resistance testing has grown significantly. In May, the International AIDS Society recommended drug resistance testing after first and multiple treatment failures.

Visible Genetics Inc. is a leader in the emerging field of pharmacogenomics, which uses genetic

information in the identification and analysis of genes to improve patient care and reduce health care costs. VGI manufactures and markets high performance automated DNA sequencing systems and complete kits for the analysis of genes linked to disease. More information is available at www.visgen.com.

Studies show accuracy of PhenoSense test

A number of studies presented at the workshop demonstrated the superior accuracy and sensitivity of PhenoSense HIV, a phenotypic HIV drug resistance test developed and marketed by ViroLogic Inc. Phenotypic tests such as PhenoSense HIV directly measure the resistance of a patient's HIV to antiretroviral drugs, and help physicians

test – to guide their choice of therapy, received more active drugs and responded much better than those who did not. This was the first major prospective clinical trial to show the benefit of an HIV phenotypic drug resistance test, in contrast to the traditional approach of using medical history when switching HIV therapy.

"The final analysis of this randomized, prospective trial provides important evidence that using phenotypic resistance testing to guide therapeutic decision making improves the outcome for our patients," said Dr. Cal Cohen, research director for the Community Research Initiative of New England. "These results support the use of phenotyping as a valuable scientific tool."

HIV can develop resistance to

**4th International Workshop on
HIV Drug Resistance & Treatment Strategies**
12-16 June 2000, Sitges, Spain

optimize therapy for HIV patients.

Several studies, the company stated, add to the growing body of research indicating phenotypic testing is superior to other methods in its ability to measure resistance and detect subtle differences in HIV's makeup that can affect the course of treatment, even before clinical symptoms are observed.

One study pointed out the potential clinical significance of a key distinction between the two HIV resistance testing methods – genotyping and phenotyping. This presentation focused on the differences between the two resistance testing methods. The study examined the drug resistance profiles of HIV patients by using PhenoSense HIV – which directly measures drug resistance – as well as a genotypic test, which predicts resistance by analyzing patterns of genetic mutations in a patient's virus.

Through use of PhenoSense HIV, researchers showed that viruses with two common "primary" mutations, previously believed to confer drug resistance, often remain vulnerable to many AIDS drugs.

Dr. Neil Parkin, senior scientist at ViroLogic and lead author of the study said "the phenotypic assay was able to provide a correct measure of resistance that looked beyond the accepted genotypic interpretations, providing information that can help physicians make better treatment choices for their patients."

ViroLogic is a biotechnology company developing and marketing innovative products to guide and improve treatment of viral diseases. Its proprietary technology called PhenoSense tests for drug resistance and susceptibility in viruses that cause AIDS, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C.

Results of Antivirogram phenotypic HIV resistance test

Data presented showed that HIV patients whose physicians used the results of Antivirogram – Viroco's phenotypic HIV resistance

any of the 14 drugs currently available to treat the condition; this is a major reason for treatment failure. The study enrolled 273 patients who had failed to respond to first-line therapy using a combination of drugs, including at least two nucleoside analogue reverse transcriptase inhibitors and a protease inhibitor. The patients were randomized to receive therapy based on phenotypic testing or on treatment history alone (standard of care) and were observed for 16 weeks following treatment change.

The study showed that those using resistance testing experienced a significantly greater drop in viral load, and a greater proportion had a reduction in viral load to undetectable levels. The number of active drugs – drugs to which the patients' virus was still sensitive – was much greater for those whose treatment was guided by resistance testing.

The study was conducted in collaboration with 25 leading AIDS treatment centers and Glaxo Wellcome. Viroco, located in the U.S., Belgium, United Kingdom and Ireland, is the only company to provide both genotyping and phenotyping HIV drug resistance testing. For more information, surf to www.virocolab.com.

DAPD in HIV-infected patients

Triangle Pharmaceuticals Inc. presented data on the antiviral activity of nucleoside analogue DAPD in HIV-infected patients who have failed multiple antiviral drugs. The researchers presented two reports: an analysis of the drug candidate's activity in vitro against resistant strains of HIV-1 and HBV, and results from a short-term, Phase I/II clinical trial of DAPD monotherapy treatment of multi-drug failure HIV infected patients.

In the laboratory studies, DAPD was active against AZT, 3TC, and multi-drug resistant

previous page ►

Brain research focuses on transgenders

by Bob Roeher

Many transgender people say that they feel as if they are trapped in the body of the wrong sex. Now there is biological evidence in the brain that lends credence to those feelings. The research was published in the May issue of the esoteric *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*.

Dr. Frank P.M. Kruijver and colleagues, working at the Nether-

lands Institute for Brain Research, knew from animal and human studies that the differences between male and female are more than just genital plumbing. Hormones are one factor, and so too is the brain, possibly in part as a result of those hormones.

Their research looked at the limbic portion of the brain, the center of emotion and basic body function. It is the most primitive core that is common to all animals, while man has evolved lay-

ers of brain beyond that, which allows for rational thought.

The Dutch sample included nine presumed heterosexual males, nine homosexual males, 10 presumed heterosexual females, six male-to-female transsexuals, and six brains (three male, three female) of patients with sex hormone disorders. They ranged in age from 20 to 53 and died of multiple causes from AIDS to suicide.

Kruijver's team took super-thin slices of human brains ob-

tained at autopsy and performed a complex but standard series of preparations. Then they began counting neurons, the basic cellular component of the brain. They looked in particular at the somatostatin-expressing neurons, which are associated with growth hormone.

They found that heterosexual men had 71 percent more of these neurons than did heterosexual women. Homosexual men were clearly in the male range, in fact they averaged a fraction more neurons than their straight counterparts, though with the small size of the sample the difference did not reach statistical significance.

Male-to-female transsexuals mirrored heterosexual women in their neuronal numbers. It did not matter whether the person realized their transsexual identity early or later in life.

Nor did use or non-use of the feminizing hormone estrogen as an adult seem to have any impact upon brain structure. That was confirmed by examination of a straight male with an adrenal tumor that produced extremely

high levels of estrogen but no change in brain neuron count. Post-menopausal women did not differ from their younger peers.

One hypothesis was that perhaps lack of testosterone in the transsexual person was responsible for the neuron count. But the pattern did not differ between those who had sexual reassignment surgery and those who retained testes. Nor did heterosexuals who lost their testicles to cancer show a change in their brain.

Kruijver also studied "the first collected brain ever of a female-to-male transsexual." The neuron pattern "was clearly in the male range." In fact, it was higher than all of the presumed heterosexual males and all but one of the homosexual males. The person had stopped taking testosterone three years before death.

This research adds to the body of evidence strongly suggesting that transsexualism has a biological origin that is prior to adulthood. It may be in part genetic, or a result of factors in the womb, or during early childhood development. ▼

HIV workshop

◀ previous page

HIV isolates. The drug candidate also was active against 3TC and fampiclovir resistant HBV isolates in vitro.

In the Phase I/II clinical trial, 20 treatment-experienced patients received oral doses of 200mg, 300mg, or 500mg twice daily of DAPD as a monotherapy. These patients had previously failed an average of seven antiretroviral drugs.

"Proof of antiviral activity in patients who have failed multiple drugs is especially encouraging and confirms the data," said Dr. Franck S. Rousseau, chief medical officer of Triangle Pharmaceuticals. "We are extremely enthused by these data and look forward to the initiation of additional studies in combination therapy later this year."

Triangle Pharmaceuticals Inc. is a specialty pharmaceutical company engaged in the development of new antiviral drug candidates, with particular focus on therapies for HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Triangle also is developing other immunotherapies for HIV. More information is available at www.tripharm.com.

CEL-SCI's collaboration with NCI

CEL-SCI Corporation announced a cooperative research and development agreement with the National Cancer Institute to

jointly test NCI's HIV peptide epitopes and CEL-SCI's L.E.A.P.S. (Ligand Epitope Antigen Presentation System) platform technology for peptide delivery. The goal of the collaboration with NCI is to develop an improved HIV vaccine. The agreement marks the eighth collaboration with a major research group by CEL-SCI for its L.E.A.P.S. technology.

Geert Kersten, CEO of CEL-SCI, said their "objective is to find the best research teams for certain diseases and to collaborate with them. The ultimate goal is to

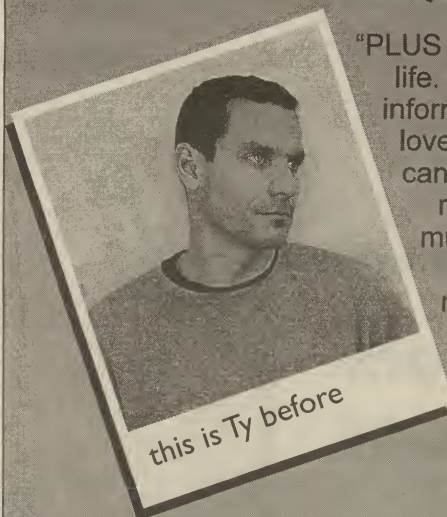
quickly and cost-effectively advance new therapeutic vaccine candidates into human studies."

The L.E.A.P.S. technology is also the subject of ongoing collaborations at Johns Hopkins University, the U.S. Naval Medical Research Center, the University of Maryland, and the University of Nebraska Medical Center. CEL-SCI Corp. is a biopharmaceutical company that identifies, develops, and commercializes products to mobilize the immune system. For more information, go to www.cel-sci.com. ▼

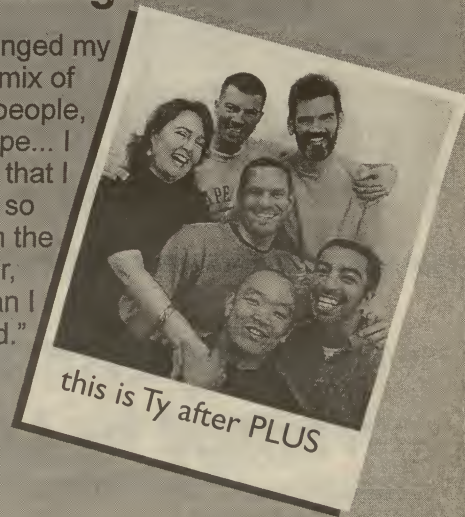
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Presented by the STOP AIDS Project and funded in part by the SFDPH AIDS Office

Teachers

◀ page 5

marks and thriving in her career. Then, in 1999, the school principal started to inquire into Ware's private life by asking about her marital status and her partner. After the principal literally pried the information out of her, Ware acknowledged that her partner was a woman, and, according to Ware's complaint, the principal seemed shocked and changed the subject. Almost immediately afterward, the principal performed an unscheduled, unannounced review of Ware despite the fact that she had already completed the two required. The review was very harsh and negative. At the urging of Ware's union, an independent review was performed, which was positive. Nevertheless the principal placed Ware on leave and her contract was not renewed. The California Labor Commissioner found that Ware was discriminated against and recommended that she be reinstated, something the district has not done.

Ware's lawsuit includes claims under the California statutory law that prohibits sexual orientation discrimination and also under federal law based on equal protection for her gender and freedom of speech and association. ▼

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Rapid testing equals rapid treatment

by Matt Sharp,
Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Getting tested for HIV can be one of the most difficult and traumatic decisions anyone has to make. But new tests have joined the ranks of high technology and speed, making the wait for results quicker, sometimes within a few minutes.

With new rapid tests, people can be offered treatment immediately upon finding out results, instead of leaving the test site and never returning, possibly unknowingly spreading the virus. Rapid testing would also alleviate the problem of "no shows," people who don't return to find out their results. Importantly, receiving results faster could lessen the stress and trauma brought on by waiting, get more people into the health care system sooner, and provide a better sense of how many people are infected with HIV.

Antibodies are a part of the immune response. When the body is exposed to the HIV virus it makes certain chemicals called antibodies to seek out and identify the virus or coat it for destruction. These antibodies are what the blood tests look for. Current antibody tests most commonly used, the Elisa and Western Blot, together have a greater than 99 percent accuracy rate. But, the tests take up to two weeks to get results. New rapid test technology takes less than 20 minutes and results are as accurate.

The new rapid test is used to confirm the Murex-SUDS (Single Use Diagnostic System), an older approved rapid test. The Food and Drug Administration has delayed approval on the newer rapid test because they claimed it wasn't reliable and didn't meet current standards (diagnostic tests must go through studies just as drugs do). The tests won't pick up subtypes of HIV like the Elisa and Western Blot, but do verify the prevalent HIV strain seen in the U.S.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the FDA was being overcautious in delaying approval, creating a holdup they said was wasting time and

costing lives. Recently, however, the FDA agreed to accelerate the approval process, striking a bargain with the CDC. A compromise was made to allow using two rapid tests at the same time. If both test results were positive or both negative, then a confirmation would be made. However, if one test was positive and one negative, a third rapid test would be performed that would be considered sufficient enough to make a determination of sero status.

Most people would agree that the tests are important in today's epidemic. But all populations of people with AIDS are not subjected to the same health standards, therefore, the rapid tests could actually cause harm to some women.

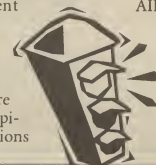
Angela Garcia, program manager for Project WISE at Project Inform spoke out on the issue, "In the pregnancy and labor [or intrapartum] setting, rapid testing is synonymous with rapid treatment. The personal, political, and clinical implications the test may hold for women and children need to be addressed beyond short-sighted cost analysis." In other words, the rapid tests have much more serious implications for women who would essentially be forced into treatment, not nec-

essarily knowing the risks involved. Testing would benefit the manufacturers of the test and the pharmaceutical industry, but not mothers who may be subjected to sub-optimal therapy, discrimination, and spousal abuse. Garcia says the use of the rapid tests could lead to a "slippery slope toward mandatory treatment of pregnant women."

Steve Morin, director of the AIDS Policy Research Center at the University of California, San Francisco, explained that the FDA is holding its old standards for testing and not looking at the reality of the situation. They expect older standards to be used which don't make much sense in today's epidemic.

He explained that "there is no community pressure on the FDA to get these tests approved."

But at least the FDA granted a compromise so that the rapid tests can continue while more information can be gathered. Perhaps testing procedures and policies have reached an apathetic state, much like the treatment arena. If the problems of mandatory testing, names reporting, and rapid testing policy for pregnant women can be sorted out, then there may be reason to believe that many more people will get into treatment, if they so chose, and more lives can be saved. ▼

**Survive AIDS**

Our Man Friday

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imum wage laws; phasing out the entire Social Security system; ending all U.S. participation in the United Nations; and advocating the repeal of NAFTA and insisting on the U.S. withdrawal from the World Trade Organization (and yes, the Texas GOP once again forbade official presence of gay Republicans at their convention).

The three confirmed presidential debates will be held on October 3 in Boston, October 11 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and October 17 in St. Louis; the single vice presidential debate will take place on October 5 in Danville, Kentucky. The Commission on Presidential Debates maintains that a candidate must have at least 15 percent support in five major polls the week before a debate to be invited (Green Party nominee Ralph Nader is currently polling around 7 percent, while Buchanan is showing about 4 percent).

Former San Jose Mayor and Congressman **Norm Mineta**, a Japanese American who left the Congress in 1995 to become a vice president for Lockheed-Martin, is reported by D.C. insiders to be in line to become President **Bill Clinton's** new commerce secretary, replacing **William Daley**, who will become Al Gore's national campaign chairman.

The latest California Field Poll shows Governor **Gray Davis**, a political centrist if ever there was one, with a 60 percent voter approval rating after nearly 19 months in office; Davis has reportedly already raised close to \$14 million in reelection funds for an election that is over two years away.

That same Field Poll shows U.S. Senator **Dianne Feinstein** contin-

uing to pull away from her November Republican opponent, Representative **Tom Campbell** (58 percent to 32 percent) with five months until Election Day. Campbell was telling reporters this week that "it is essential for George W. Bush to do well in California for me and other Republicans running this year," but polls show Gore currently leading Bush by double-digit numbers and as one Hispanic GOP leader put it recently, "It's going to take more than a few phrases in Spanish for Hispanics to vote for Bush," noting that bad feelings still linger in that community against Republicans. In particular, many remember that former Governor **Pete Wilson** strongly supported Proposition 187 (which passed easily) that denied education and health benefits to the children of illegal immigrants.

Although the U.S. Senate passed a bill last week co-sponsored by Senators **Edward Kennedy** (D-Massachusetts) and **Gordon Smith** (R-Oregon) - by a surprisingly wide 57 to 42 vote - that would make hate crimes against gays a federal crime, it still must pass the GOP-controlled House of Representatives. Gay Congressman **Barney Frank** (D-Massachusetts) said this week that though the bill likely would not pass the House now, things might change when the elections get closer. Frank: "Politics can have strange effects on people's views of bedfellowship."

In Italy, Rome's mayor withdrew support of the World Pride Roma scheduled there in early July. The decision was criticized by **Amos Luzzatto**, president of Italy's Jewish communities; he said respect for minorities is a mark of a civilized society. The Vatican and Italy's right-wing leadership have opposed the festi-

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

David Clark Fredrickson

November 6, 1956 — June 17, 2000

David passed away with his partner Michael by his side. As the sun came up over Maitri in San Francisco, David slipped away to go to his reward after waiting so many years to receive it. His seven-year struggle with HIV and AIDS has now ended. He was 43 years old.

David was born in San Diego, California and at the age of two months was



adopted by Lorraine and "Fritz" Fredrickson. He joined the family with a sister, Marlene. He grew up in Lakeside until the City of Los Angeles called. He chose a career in the accounting field. A few years later, he came to San Francisco with his best friend. In 1989, he met his partner Michael, and after a year found himself with his dream job at GAP, living in Cupertino along with his cat, Merlot.

David loved to shop, travel and entertain. There was little downtime in his life and his "leisure" time was filled with gardening, computers, and weekly Bingo in the Castro. His "always on" personality was entertaining to all who knew him.

After a few years away, they decided to come back to San Francisco, and it was there that he began his fight against AIDS. With a support system that had no limits, he fought the disease with his doctors, Larry, Gregory and Ivan, along with his nurses Kirk, Sylvia, Mary, Caroline, Suzette, Kathleen, Mary Lou, Glo, Penny, Tim, Sabrina, Brian and James.

In addition to his partner, mother, sister and niece, he leaves many friends, among them Michele, Patti, Mike & Mark, Richard, Gloria, Lou, Sherry, Scott and his cats Merlot and Morgan. Family services were held in San

Diego. A private memorial service will be held on July 8. For information, send requests to nov6th@aol.com. In lieu of flowers, donations in David's name to Maitri in San Francisco are requested.

Ruby Mathieson

Ruby Mathieson, 83, died on June 9 at her Portland, Maine home. Born in Island Pond, Vermont, she was the daughter of Annie and Milan Lamson. She attended schools in Vermont and Massachusetts and graduated from high school in Everett, Massachusetts.

In 1987, Mrs. Mathieson went to San Francisco to care for her son, David, who was dying of AIDS. After his death, she moved permanently to California to help with the AIDS epidemic.

For seven years she cared for AIDS patients and offered bereavement counseling for parents of men and women with AIDS through Visiting Nurses and Hospice of San Francisco. For several years she served on the board of directors of Family Link, an organization which provides temporary and affordable housing for out-of-town families of AIDS patients. She received numerous awards and much recognition for her AIDS work.

In 1994 she moved with her daughter to Portland, and since then has maintained an active correspondence with the many parents she had helped while working in San Francisco. Her wisdom and extraordinary ability to give of herself left its mark on many

lives.

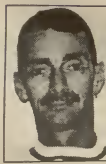
She was preceded in death by her husband, William, who died in 1978, and son David, who died in 1987.

Survivors include her three children: Denise Mathieson of Portland, Maine, Douglas Mathieson of Lawrence, Massachusetts, and Dianna Hoffman of Boca Raton, Florida; two grandchildren, Marissa Mathieson and Nicholas Hoffman; and a brother, Floyd Lamson of Arizona.

A memorial service will be held at the Reading Baptist Church on June 24, 2000, at 10 a.m. Donations to Family Link of San Francisco have been requested in lieu of flowers.

Roger J. Spencer

Roger J. Spencer died on May 29. Roger was born in Danville, Illinois and



moved to San Francisco in 1976, where he was employed until shortly before his death.

He is survived by his mother, Eloise, in Arkansas, a brother in Seattle, and a special friend, Anatoli Deriev of

San Francisco.

Roger was an avid bowler and participated in many International Gay Bowling Organization tournaments. He was also a volunteer in numerous Bay Area gay fundraising events.

A memorial service was held for Roger on June 6, attended by close friends.

Rest in Peace; friends will remember you.



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Our Man Friday

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val; Mayor Francesco Rutelli and city councilmembers refuse to back the gay rally because they are unhappy over certain scheduled events, in particular a gay fashion show near a Catholic church. Deborah Oakley-Melvin, former president of San Francisco's Pride Committee, who's serving as international director for the events, said the July 1-9 festival would be held as planned.

In San Francisco, saying he "can do it better," District Attorney Terence Hallinan told the Board of Supervisors last week that he wants to take back control of Mayor Willie Brown's quality-of-life infraction program from the City Attorney's office; the program is one in which the homeless are ticketed for such offenses as blocking doorways, urinating in public and disorderly conduct.

San Francisco's huge Pride Parade last Sunday brought out politicians and would-be politicians by the score, and among those

who received the biggest response from the overflow crowd were Assemblywoman Carole Migden, Mayor Brown and Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Mark Leno. A great parade, incidentally, and the organizers deserve thanks for a job well done.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" (from George W. Bush during an interview with U.S. News & World Report) Bush: "I think anybody who doesn't think I'm smart enough to handle the job is underestimating." (Duh)

And how was your week? ▼

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Independence Dei

by Jim Provenzano

Frieeeeeends, it is with great jubilation that I bestow upon you once again in weekly summatoratorial purveyance, the grandiloquent tidings from the robed ones in our land, the highest of Supremoromatic in summing the distribution of justice through our land, especially on the green fields of athletic endeavor.

I feel beneficence and quandiloquence and Edith Quince, my aunt's neighbor, who brings her own lawn chair for the fireworks display this time of year, in the playing fields where as a boy I...

Well, anyway, that's where I like spending my summer's time, my friends, see, prayers in school, particularly at assemblies, carried insinuations, muttered under every assertive prayer-on-demand in my public school life, and the flat nasal tone of zealotry by lunch time.

And over the PA, it ain't much more convincing.

"Get your nuts."

So it was decreed.

"Beer nuts. Get your nuts."

In that state, that squat flat rump of shaved green Easter grass, shall remain prayer-free sport space.

A pre- post- or mid-game prayer is an infringement on the faithfully otherwise, the non-sectoral, non-pastoral, or more precisely, non-preachorific types who just wanna

see a durn football game.

Thank you. Can I get a hot dog? And some buns to go with it? Mmm-hmmm.

Oh, I can see 'em comin' now. The ones with the crosses, and the whining kids and the little signs. The PTAs and YCAs are baleful in our error. There will be gnashing of cleats in our land.

But fear not. For this is simply spreading the margin. While college sports hold back the tide of corporate branding consumerism (Stanford's halted all corporate signage deals; bold, brave, and hopefully, not broke when the money leaves, too), we, with our robed assistance, hold back the fanatical.

Let diverse faith thrive, only off the playing fields, where as far as I know, the old gods still play. They invented it. Let me saith to you; don't preach at my game and I won't dribble in church.

Wheaties box

Dave's in.

Ohio Stater, NCAA par excellence and gay Olympic diver David Pichler made the team. Second in platform. Be still my heart.

Dave's also competing in springboard. Others include Troy Dumais (of the captivating GYM spread) and Mark Ruis (of the perfect 10.0 achieved at the Federal Way, Washington finals last week).

Billie Jean King (like you don't already know) will coach the

women's tennis team. This is gonna be so cool.

Olympics are out this year. Time to get cable.

No muggy

Ah, la publicité.

Ode to D. Sedaris:

This from a German Web site that posted stuff about my book, then started its own serialized German gay wrestling coming out novel, but in like Dikenbaden or something. I didn't bother to translate how much else of it Heinz cribbed, except a bit from someone else's article mixed in with local interviews. I guess in Germany they're celebrating GFCID - German Independence From Copy-

right Infringement Day:

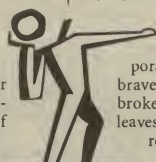
"The author of the novel *PINS*, tries an explanation: 'the sports club, the changed clothes cabins, that the last places at which men are under itself are naked see themselves. That is heterosexual men anyway already unpleasant genug. There one wants to have simply no muggy at the same time. So one frees himself also self of the suspicion of the homosexuality.'"

Couldn't have genugged it better. ▼

Read my untranslated interview with David Pichler at <http://sportscomplex.org>.



Tubal litigation: court cuts crosses from football frolics. Jerry: "Rigged!"



Sports Complex

Boy Scouts

◀ page 3

status as an openly gay man."

The opinions

In overturning that decision, Chief Justice William Rehnquist wrote, "The forced inclusion of an unwanted person in a group infringes the group's freedom of expressive association if the presence of that person affects in a significant way the group's ability to advocate public or private viewpoints."

He gave "deference" to the Boy Scouts' assertions that they had an essential anti-gay message, and that inclusion of gays would be detrimental, when he wrote: "The presence of an avowed homosexual and gay rights activist in an as-

sistant scoutmaster's uniform sends a distinctly different message."

Rehnquist's opinion differentiated between inclusion of women and inclusion of homosexuals. It seemed to say that the later were substantively different, being gay imposes a greater burden on, and is less worthy of equal protection than being female.

He said the state interest in this matter did not justify such an intrusion on First Amendment protections. Rehnquist said, "We are not, as we must not be, guided by our views of whether the Boy Scouts' teaching with respect to homosexual conduct is right or wrong."

Rehnquist noted that in his dissent, Justice John Paul Stevens made much of the fact that homosexuality has gained greater social acceptance. "But this is scarcely an argument for denying First Amendment protection to those who refuse to accept these views," wrote Rehnquist. The First Amendment protects unpopular views as well as popular ones.

Justices Sandra Day O'Connor, Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy, and Clarence Thomas joined Rehnquist in the 21-page opinion.

Justice Stevens penned the unusually long 40-page dissent, joined by Justices David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. He argued that the New Jersey non-discrimination law did not impose any serious burden on the Boy Scouts and "therefore, abridges no constitutional rights."

He characterized the majority's deference to the Scouts' assertion that including gays would be detrimental as "an astounding view of the law. I am unaware of any previous instance in which our analysis of the scope of a constitutional right was determined by looking at what a litigant asserts in his or her brief and inquiring no further. It is even more astonishing in the First Amendment area."

Stevens argued that the court needed to "mark the proper boundary" between legitimate and sham claims of the right to association. "Shielding a litigant's claim from judicial scrutiny would, in turn, render civil rights legislation a nullity, and turn this important constitutional right into a farce."

"The only apparent explanation for the majority's holding," wrote Stevens, "is that homosexuals are simply so different from the rest of society that their presence alone - unlike any other individual's - should be singled out for special First Amendment treatment... Though unintended, reliance on such a justification is tantamount to a constitutionally prescribed symbol of inferiority."

Justice Souter wrote a brief additional dissent, joined by Ginsburg and Breyer. In it he concluded that the BSA did not have an expressive association claim "because of its failure to make sexual orientation the subject of any unequivocal advocacy, using the channels it customarily employs to state its message."

Reactions

The Boy Scouts praised the majority decision. Spokesman Gregg Shields said, "This decision allows us to continue our mission of providing character-building experiences for young people, which has been our chartered purpose since our founding."

Dale was "saddened" by the outcome of his 10-year struggle. "But there is also a lot of room for hope in where America is going. Although the Boy Scouts think that discrimination is right, America does not think that discrimination is right."

Ruth Harlow, assistant legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which brought the case on behalf of Dale, called it "a hollow pyrrhic victory" for the Boy Scouts. "Their leaders and their lawyers have convinced five members of the Supreme Court that they are an anti-gay institution. And now they have to live with that narrow, discriminatory vision."

Evan Wolfson, the Lambda attorney who argued the case before the court, was disappointed by "the superficiality of the majority's analysis and the way they rushed to rubber stamp the claims that the Boy Scouts made in court." He believes the majority "had a result they wanted to get to and they got there by skimming over the surface, as the dissent pointed out."

He emphasized that "this case has triggered a very positive awareness that lesbian and gay youth exist and need programs like the Boy Scouts." Organizations that refuse to provide those services are going to be "marginalized."

Wolfson reminded reporters that most national youth organizations have a non-discriminatory policy with regard to gays. The Girl Scouts of America, the 4-H Club, and others filed legal briefs in support of Dale, not the Boy Scouts.

He criticized the majority for not addressing "the extraordinary public entanglement" of support "now that the Boy Scouts have fought to win the label of exclusionary and discriminatory."

While the majority opinion did grant the Boy Scouts the right to discrimination against gays, Wolfson pointed out that "they

next page ▶

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HIV education & prevention programs, case management, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS Support Group

Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group provides practical, emotional, and, where desired, spiritual support for persons living with AIDS without regard to religious preference, age, race, gender, sexual preference, or disability. Volunteer training provided. For info or to volunteer, call (415) 863-1581.

Alternative Family Project

"We Are Family," on-going support group for gay men, Tues. & Thurs., 7pm. Call for no-fee intake. 436-9000.

Asians & Leather

Support group for gay Asian men who identify with leather. Info c/o Pacific Friends, PO Box 641008, or e-mail kcho415@aol.com

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV

Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

Bay Positives

Provides recreational and emotional support for people up to 26 years old living with HIV. Ongoing support groups meet weekly. 487-1616.

Baylands Family Circle

Nonprofit group of families headed by gay, lesbian and bisexual partners, meets monthly for social. Call Tom, 858-2468.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Breast Cancer Action

Carries the voices of people affected by breast cancer to inspire and compel the changes necessary to end the breast cancer epidemic. For info, call 243-9301.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

Community United Against Violence

Provides services for LGBT victims of domestic violence and hate crimes. Also needs volunteer counselors on 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500. For emergency 24-hour crisis line, call 333-HELP.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every Wed., 8pm at The Meeting Place, 1874 Market, Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Ellipse-Peninsula AIDS Services

Support groups, emotional & practical buddy program, food program and case management for PWAs in San Mateo Co. (650) 572-9702.

Full Circle Community Counseling

We offer low-cost services which support, encourage, and challenge people to realize their unlimited potential. Take the step to go beyond the pain of your past to experience the freedom of who you really are. Offices in SF and the East Bay. 255-0100.

Gay Dads

Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project

Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay Men's STD/VD Clinic

Testing & treatment by & for gay men, free, every Sun., 5-7pm. HIV antibody anonymous testing for women & men 12 or older, every Sun., 5-7pm. 2339 Durant Ave at Dana, Berkeley. Wheelchair accessible. 644-0425 (non-voice TDD 548-8238 for disability).

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-5755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men. Free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0425.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with hep C. Call 834-4100.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments. Free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Positive Drop-in Group

Free, every Tues., 7pm. MCC-SF, 150 Eureka. 863-4434.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am, 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Iris Center

Women's counseling and recovery services for women with HIV, no/low fee. 333 Valencia St. Info: 864-2364.

Lesbian Social Group

For lesbians and bisexual women in Tri-Cities/So. Alameda Co. Thurs., 7pm at The Edge, 3916 State, Fremont. (510) 790-2887.

Lesbian Support Groups

On mental health issues: peer counseling, support and referrals for SF residents. Call Connie, 552-0788.

Lesbians with Cancer

12 week psycho-social support group at the Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services, 1748 Market. Classes are offered on a sliding scale basis. Call 565-7672 x370 to register.

Lyon-Martin Women's Health Center

Quality, affordable, non-judgmental medical care to women by women, special outreach to lesbian and bisexual women. 1748 Market St. 565-7667.

LYRIC's After School

Drop-in for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth, 18 and under. Daily, 3-6pm, M-F. 123 Collingwood. 703-6150.

Marin Co. STD/HIV Clinics

STD testing, treatment; HIV anonymous testing, treatment. Call 499-7804.

Meditation Sessions

For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others. Free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault helpline for men. Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Men's Circle

Despite the painful and distressing events in your past, you can move beyond these experiences and learn to reconnect with others and with living fully and freely again. Come and join other gay/bi men on this journey to freedom. Full Circle Community Counseling. Low fees/free initial intake. 255-0100.

National Association of People With AIDS Fax

Fax-on-demand system which provides free and up-to-date information on HIV funding, grants, insurance, benefits, legal issues and more. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Call NAPWA Fax: (202) 789-2222.

New Leaf

Provides substance abuse, mental health, HIV and senior services for les, gay, bi, and trans community. Info/intake: 626-7000.

OUTLINE

Free HIV info and support using Windows or Macintosh graphic interface. Info: 554-0555 or info@outline.org

Pacific Center

Counseling services, social groups for queer youth & adults, sliding scale. 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. (510) 548-8283.

The Positive Center

Free weekly workshops in acupuncture, nutrition, more for Marin CO, residents w/HIV. 535 San Anselmo Ave., San Anselmo. 456-8065.

Positive Resource Center

Provides work referrals and benefits counseling to people with HIV/AIDS. To list a job opening, attend an employment opportunity orientation, or set up an appointment for benefits counseling call 777-0333.

Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

Q Action

Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Question HIV

Support group, share stories, every Mon., 7pm. Call for location and info. 252-1381.

Radical Women

Business mtg. 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Southern Alameda HIV Services

Tri-City Health Center provides comprehensive HIV services, with offices in Fremont and Hayward, (510) 713-6670 and 727-9233, respectively. Spanish and Tagalog spoken.

STD Check-ups

Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

Tambayan

Support/social group for queer pinoy and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transenders in Transition

Alternative Family Project's ongoing support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions

Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

Transgender Support Group

Multiracial rap group, every first Monday of month. 6:30pm. Call Adela Holiday, Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida, 864-7278.

UCSF AIDS Health Project

Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

Veterans Affairs Medical Center SF

Seeks volunteers to join its AIDS/ARC Volunteer Program. Volunteers visit patients in hospital and help in simple care tasks. Volunteers for AIDS Home Care and Phone Buddy Program are also needed. Contact: Ronald Hunt, AIDS Volunteer Program Coordinator, VA Medical Center, 4150 Clement St., 750-2144.

Volunteer haircutters needed

For HIV patient services at Davies Med. Ctr. Once a month, 3-hr. shift on Mon. Call Barbara at 565-6374.

We Care Bay Area

Provides emergency financial support to individuals affected by AIDS and other serious illnesses. Requests must be made thru a Bay Area outreach or social service agency. Info: 282-1911.

Weight Watchers Mtg.

Men: 9am Sat., 7pm Wed. Women: 6:30pm, Tues. MCC, 150 Eureka St.

WillCare Hospice

& Home Care offers free 20-hr. training course for volunteers. 2001 Gateway, San Jose. Call (408) 467-0777.

Women's Cancer Resource Center

Support, resource & advocacy group for Bay Area women with cancer, their friends, families. Provides individual peer counseling & drop-in support groups, educational programs, legal workshop & more. 3023 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. (510) 548-9272.

SFAP

◀ page 5

Band (see Arts & Entertainment section).

"The Fourth of July is traditionally a time for family gatherings, picnics, and celebrations," said Robert-Jay Green, AFP's director. "As LGBT couples and families have become increasingly open in society, the popularity and importance of this annual event within our community has increased dramatically."

AFP was recently taken under the wing of the California School for Professional Psychology, the nation's oldest and largest graduate school of professional psychology.

Under CSPP, the Alternative Family Project will expand its outpatient counseling services, serve as an academic think tank for social policy research on LGBT family issues, and sponsor more community outreach events like the Fourth of July picnic, and educational programs.

According to Carol Huffine, Ph.D., director of CSPP's Psychological Services Center, the school's adoption of AFP "creates the first major center for alternative family services and studies in

the nation to be housed within an accredited institution of higher education.

"Because of the rapidly expanding number of LGBT couples making commitments, having children, and looking for family-related services and support, alternative family issues are one of the fastest-growing areas of interest among psychologists and other helping professionals," Huffine said.

Last year's July Fourth event showed how true that is. "One of our volunteers last year - a lesbian elementary school principal - started out by saying she could help us with a children's booth for a few hours only. She stayed all day," said Marcia Perlstein, former director of AFP. "When I asked her why, she said: 'I raised my kids in darkness and in shame. If they had had an event like this, they would have felt better about their family. Instead they suffered, and we struggled to hide our differences. Once I saw what was going on here, I wasn't about to leave.'" ▼

For more information about

AFP or the Fourth of July

celebration, go to

www.altfamilyproject.org, or call (415) 436-9000.

Boy Scouts

◀ previous page

did not say that the discrimination is right. That message and that tone is very, very different from what we saw dripping from the court's pages in Hardwick," the 1986 decision that affirmed anti-gay sodomy laws.

The Human Rights Campaign was "gravely disappointed" with the ruling. Legal director Tony Varona called it "a travesty of justice that may allow large, open membership groups to be above the law and evade state and local nondiscrimination laws."

While the Boy Scouts retain the right to discriminate against gays, many of their sponsors do not have that option. Harlow pointed out that in New Jersey and other jurisdictions with non-discrimination laws that cover gays, public facilities such as schools and agencies such as police and fire departments, are not allowed to discriminate. She said, "Public schools will have to repudiate their sponsorship of this kind of discriminatory organization."

Corporate sponsors and agencies such as the United Way are also increasingly unwilling to give financial support to groups that discriminate against gays. ▼

FREE SCREENING FOR KAPOSI'S SARCOMA

No one seems to talk about Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) anymore. While certainly not as common as it used to be, there still are many HIV+ people who have some KS lesions.

• Do you have some marks on your skin that you suspect may be Kaposi's Sarcoma (KS) and you want to be sure?

• Do you sometimes wonder if there is anything to do about KS lesions besides just getting used to them?

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• Do your KS lesions cause you any discomfort?

If your answer to any of these questions is yes, consider obtaining a free KS screening at the Research Unit of Marcus A. Conant, M.D.

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Retail Wine Sales Experience necessary gay friendly family-owned upscale store in the Fillmore. Mail or drop off resume to Bill at 2200 Fillmore St., SF, CA 94115. Full Time

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Beach Blanket Babylon

now in its 27th year seeks crew/theatrical technicians. Skills in costumes, props, lights. Must be 5'7" tall, able to lift 50lb. over your head. Minorities encouraged to apply. Full-benefit positions available.

Send resume to Rick Markovich, Production Manager Beach Blanket Babylon, 470 Columbus Suite 204 San Francisco, CA 94133 No phone calls, please.

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Innovative youth marketing company hiring part-time field reps to promote new products to the 18 to 24 age group. \$10/hr+expenses & bonus program. Perfect for students. Must be outgoing, active and have reliable transportation. Call (800) 692-5868 or email Nicole@addmarketing.com

Progressive, all-people-affirming school for ministry seeks to hire a faculty secretary who will provide administrative support to Dean among other things. Multi-tasking a must, with competency and experience working with diverse community double-plus good. Fax cover letter/ resume 510-845-6273 ASAP.

HOUSE BOY

B&B/tour service in mountains of eastern New Mexico seeks boy for housework, cleaning, gardening. Ideal for one who likes serenity in a natural setting. HIV status not a problem. Zuni Mountain Lodge, POB #5114, Thoreau, NM 87323. 505-862-7616

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Full-time position in a leading gay publishing and video production company in SOMA. Candidate must be experienced in accounting, be a self-starter, highly organized and detail-oriented. Salary range \$10 to \$12 to start. Send resume to BCM, Attn: Personnel, 2215-R Market St., PMB #148, San Francisco, CA 94114 or Fax to 415-552-3244

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TRENDY CLIENTELE

SOMA cafe/coffee shop seeks full or part-time help. Lots of cuties come in for coffee. It's a nice place to work, you can wear your own clothes...it's not a freakin' Starbucks! Help the little guys, work for us!! Oh, and you get paid too. Apply in person. Pick Me Up Cafe at the corner of 9th and Folsom.

Caregivers wanted for elderly care \$8-\$10 an hour. Live in and hourly available. Car is a plus. Call David at 415-273-1497

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the sole provider of comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention and care services in the county, has the following job opportunities:

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• Benefits Advocate

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For Social Worker and Benefits Advocate positions, informal/formal counseling experience with communities affected by HIV/AIDS is desirable. Fluency in Spanish is a plus, as is possession of a valid Class C Driver's License and an insured vehicle. Full job descriptions available. Please mail or fax a cover letter and resume by July 7, 2000: Administrative Director, Santa Cruz AIDS Project, PO Box 557, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Phone: (831) 427 3900 Fax: (831) 427-0398 email: suel@scapsite.org

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STOP AIDS PROJECT

Administrative Assistant

STOP AIDS seeks individual for reception, data entry & admin support. BA and/or 2 yrs exp., req. knowledge of word & excel. FT & bens., \$26-28K. Snd ltr., res. & 3 refs., to AASC, SAP, 2128 15th Str., SF, CA 94114. FAX 415-575-0166

Neighborhood Organizers

STOP AIDS seeks individual to coordinate and implement HIV prevention programs for gay & bi men. Spanish preftr. C.A.D.L. req. \$28-31K. Snd ltr., res & 3 refs to NOSC, SAP, 2128 15th Str., SF, CA 94114. FAX 415-575-0166

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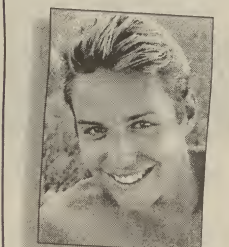


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STATEMENT FILE NO. 241222

The following person(s) are doing business as Pacific Oyster Bar And Restaurant 1434 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA 94123. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kam Li, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 06/05/2000 JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 240621

The following person(s) are doing business as Red Afro 786 Minna #10 San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Philip A. Marineau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/08/2000 JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 312642

In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In The Matter of the Application of Randall Rodriguez For Change of Name. The application of Randall Rodriguez for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Randall Rodriguez has filed an application proposing that his name be changed to Mark Andrew. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 24th day of July, 2000 at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. JUNE 8, 15, 22, 29, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241286

The following person(s) are doing business as Honnet Enterprises Inc. 600 Page Street #302 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Jeffrey L. Banks, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/16/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 06/08/2000. JUNE 15, 22, 29 JULY 6, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO. 241425

The following person(s) are doing business as SS Bros. 1445 Quesada Avenue. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Sebastian P. Colon. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 6/01/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 06/14/2000. JUNE 22, 29 JULY 6, 13, 2000

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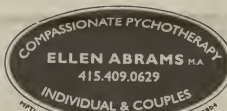
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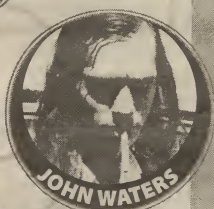
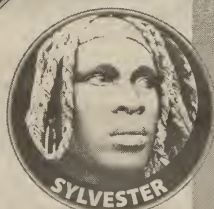
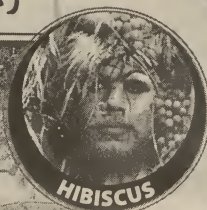
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The Mission when it was the Mission
Michelle Tea's memoir of '90s dyke SF,
'Valencia,' looks back in wonder.

page 42

Footnote to film history
'The Biograph Girl' revived
by author William J. Mann.

page 39



A radical life story
'Out: The Making of a
Revolutionary' at Castro.

page 36



BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 30 • No. 26 • 29 June 2000

Let freedom ring!

by Heidi Beeler

Jennifer
Higdon's
Freedom
Dreams
premieres at the
Ol' Fashioned
4th of July
Alternative
Family Picnic

A cow skull hanging in a red bathroom, a house shaped like an M, and a dining room lamp made from glued-together bits of string were Cheryl Lawsen's first clues that the family of her high school buddy and future life-partner, Jennifer Higdon, was living in their own private Tennessee.

"I mean, all of the furniture in our household was country plaid and natural wood," Lawsen said of her family's home on the other side of Maryville, TN, in a phone interview with the couple last week. "And here's this huge lampshade made entirely out of string!"

Higdon — professional flutist, professor of 20th-century music at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, and a Pew and Guggenheim fellow whose work was recently premiered at Carnegie Hall — has just finished writing *Freedom Dreams*, a musical triptych for band that celebrates alternative families. The piece will be premiered this Tuesday, July 4, by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band at the Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic at Yerba Buena Gardens. It is one of 58 commissions created by the Continental Harmony Project of the National Endowment for the Arts and the American Composers Forum.

Her own family's alternative qualities made this project stand out among the other CHP projects when she applied for the commission, Higdon said. Raised by hippie artists deep in Southern Baptist farm country, "married" to her lesbian high school sweetheart, aunt to her partner's African-American/Caucasian niece, and sister to a 5-year-old half-brother of Caucasian and Japanese-American descent, Higdon's family crosses over many types of traditional societal boundaries. Paying tribute through music to the diversity of American families from a GLBT perspective was a project she felt strongly about.

A sound odyssey

Higdon said her upbringing may also have had an influence on her more directly as a composer. While her parents played rock 'n' roll and reggae at home (never classical music), her dad was a professional artist, a commercial graphic designer, an art instructor at the local museum, and an experimental filmmaker. Both her parents were active in the progressive politics of the '60s, and she was exposed to experimental films, theater happenings and innovation festivals since before she could walk. Her parents' friends gave her recordings of Stravinsky at an age when today's kids are listening to Barney. And what was the first film her parents took their small children to? 2001: A Space Odyssey.

"I was about 5 or 6, eating my Tootsie Rolls," Higdon said, laughing. "[The monkeys throwing bones into the air] was the scene that made the

page 43 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

Rich Getman



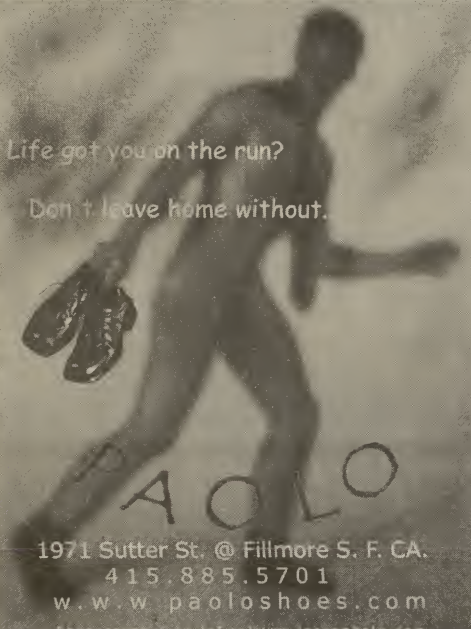
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by Roberto Friedman
and the Pussycats

We love a parade, and the world's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender Pride parade last Sunday more than met our needs. Parade Grand Marshals Board of Supervisors President **Tom Ammiano** and activists and 45-year couple **Phyllis Lyon & Del Martin** were proud parade poobahs; and Celebrity and Organizational Grand Marshals **Margaret Cho** and the AIDS Emergency Fund looked great in their outfits.

Out There even enjoyed the afterparty for hundreds of thousands in Civic Center. Somewhere amidst all that merchandising, we found queer spirit. Maybe it was in the promotional spanking paddles Showtime was handing out to plug its upcoming *Yankee Queer As Folk*. Maybe it was in the good vibrations goin' down in the Radical Faerie Freedom Village and Petting Zoo.

But soon it was time to run over to the Castro Theatre for the L&G Film Festival's closing night offering. Cheer SF got things off to a rousing start with their sis-boom-bah. Director **Jamie Babbit** and talented actress **Clea DuVall** graced us with their presence at the party in the Pavilion. Too bad we found the main event, *But I'm A Cheerleader*, to be such a dud.

The festival's Audience Award for Best Feature was presented to **Thomas Bezucha's Big Eden**; the audience's choice for Best Docu-



But I'm A Cheerleader writer Brian Wayne Peterson, composer Madigan Shive, director Jamie Babbit, and actress Clea DuVall at closing night.

mentary was a tie between **Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's Paragraph 175** and **Debra Chasnoff's That's a Family**. And the juried Dockers First Feature Award went to **Jon Shear's** debut film *Urbana*, thus ensuring its commercial release later this year. Shear walked off \$10,000 richer.

All of the winners were deserving of the accolades. But in general, this year's SPILGFF got decidedly mixed reviews. Too many selections turned out to be mediocre films, gay versions of *Friends*, not very challenging at all. Perhaps the problem is

that Frameline has increasingly opted for quantity over quality. This year the festival screened a whopping 270 works, out of 400-some entries submitted. You do the math. Is bigger always better?

Then there were the large number of retrospectives and encore presentations on offer. Many of us are still unconvinced that we needed to see *Basic Instinct* again. Re the *Killer Lesbians* theme, as the queen in the fabulous *Queer Witch Project* festival trailer put it, "I'm so over this!"

We're still not sure what to make of the **Siegfried & Roy** flick, *The Magic Box*, which screened in 3-D at the IMAX theatre in the "unmall" Metreon last week. The film, believe it or not

Out There



Bavarian big boys Siegfried & Roy with their housepets



Big Eden's Thomas Bezucha

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narrated by respectable thespian **Sir Anthony Hopkins**, lavished a lot of attention on the young 'uns S & R, told the timeless story of Boy Meets Boy aboard the cruise ship Bremen ("Siegfried didn't know what Roy had up his sleeve!"), then skipped ahead to endless scenes of the grown men frolicking with their big cats, inside and outside their chandelier-stuffed manse ("We want to save the vito lion! But first he must stop scratching the upholstery of our vito Rolls-Royce!") In other words, there's no real examination of the boys' married life.

What plot there was in the Siegfried & Roy movie seemed to involve the sorcerers' slow seduction of two young boys, one brunet and one blonde... enraptured by their wondrous magic? By their feckless lifestyle? By their glamorous pussies? Opens Friday for a limited run.

Punks: the epilogue

At a Frameline party at Foreign Cinema stuffed to the rafters with politicians and power-brokers last week, **Mayer Willie Brown** lamented having missed festival opening night feature *Punks*, then declared, "I hope to see a pirated copy of it soon!" Out There thinks

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THEATRE

Making the tour 'Miserables'

Associate director Jason Moore gets the road company in shape

by Richard Dodds

Jason Moore, the associate director of *Les Miserables*, laughed hard when told that a publicist had described him as a "blond hunk."

"That's ridiculous," he said from New York. "I am blond, and that's about it."

But he knows that certain buttons get pushed when selling a story to the gay press. "I'm directing a gay comedy in New York right now, so I'm dealing with that," he said. "I think, where is the line drawn?"



Jason Moore

The gay comedy is titled *Crumple Zone*, and it stars the hot gay comic Mario Cantone. Moore's job with *Les Miz* lets him squeeze in occasional outside jobs, but he happily spends most of his time artistically overseeing the Broadway and touring companies of the long-running musical. He'll be checking out the tour during the run beginning this week at the Curran Theatre.

It's been seven years since *Les Miz* played San Francisco, and those with good memories may notice some subtle changes in the show that has been running on Broadway for an incredible 13 years. Three years ago, on the 10th anniversary of the Broadway production, producer Cameron Mackintosh cleaned house, replacing the "students" who had grown into middle age with the show, and bringing back the directors and creators to give the whole thing a kick in the pants. Many of those changes were quickly incorporated into the touring company.

"Part of my goal with the tour, and we achieved it about a year ago, was to complete that process," said Moore, who joined the *Les Miz* family 18 months ago, after doing similar duty with *Ragtime*.

Basically, it was decided that the actors should have freer rein to experiment with their characters, rather than be squeezed into a mold set when the show began. "The results are that the actors have a sense of ownership of what they're doing on stage," Moore said. "Audiences can sense if an actor is walking through a performance. But if the actor is engaged, it engages the audience."

The touring company, itself in its 11th year, has the freshness edge over its Broadway counterpart by the fact that there is a higher turnover of actors, and because there's always a new opening night (and a new set of reviews) just around the corner.

Because the show will run for three months in San Francisco, economics permit it to play the Curran, a small theater by the standards of touring houses. "We're so

excited to be there," Moore said, "because the Curran is so intimate, and the show will feel like what it is, which is a play set to music. We end up in a lot of big barns in these smaller towns where we just play a week or two."

Moore, 29 and single, likes his current situation, though he does have an eye on television directing down the road.

He'll spend part of the summer as an observer on the set of *Dawson's Creek*, though he terminated an earlier Los Angeles residency because "the city wasn't as gay-friendly as I wanted it to be. I used to go up to San Francisco and think, 'Oh, this is what a large urban gay-friendly city is supposed to be like.'"

Military maneuvers

The New Conservatory Theatre Center has scored a considerable coup. Months before such major

regional theaters as the Mark Taper Forum in Los Angeles and the McCarter Theatre in Princeton get *Another American: Asking and Telling*, San Francisco audiences will have the chance to see this acclaimed one-man show.

Written and starring gay actor Marc Wolf, the play is built from 200 interviews Wolf conducted with those affected one way or another by the military's "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policies.

It opened last year in New York to positive reviews, and received a special citation at the Obie Awards for Wolf and director Joe Mantello (*Love! Valour! Compassion!*).

The 14-performance run begins Aug. 3. For more information, call 861-8972.

Broadway on Van Ness

The San Francisco Symphony has two attractions on its annual

Summer in the City pops series that should hold special appeal to Broadway babies.

First up, three-time Tony-winner Audra McDonald will sing with the Symphony on July 21 at Davies Hall. Her program will include selections from *Way Back to Paradise*, her first album, and *How Glory Goes*, her latest release. The striking soprano won her Tony



Audra McDonald

Awards for *Carousel*, *Master Class*, and *Ragtime*. Her most recent Broadway appearance was in *Marie Christine* at Lincoln Center.

The following night, July 22, the Symphony reprises a popular summer tradition at Davies Hall. *Rodgers & Hammerstein and Friends* will feature the Grammy Award-winning San Francisco Chorus, along with the orchestra performing songs from *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, and other R&H classics. Concert soloists will be soprano Christiane Noll (Emma in Broadway's *Jekyll & Hyde*) and baritone Ron Raines.

For more information, call 864-6000.

Cracking a Walnut

A new musical theater series in Walnut Creek is trying to overcome that city's image among gays and lesbians. The Venus Rising Company's first season at the Dean Leshner Center features a gay and lesbian subscription component

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Still stripping after all these years

TheatreWorks' 'Gypsy' holds up as a classic American musical

by Richard Dodds

If *Gypsy* isn't the best American musical, it's certainly in contention. There is Julie Styne's muscular and melodic music, Stephen Sondheim's delightful lyrics, and Arthur Laurents' intelligently entertaining book. And, of course, the original Broadway production had Jerome Robbins' staging and Ethel Merman's powerhouse performance.

TheatreWorks is opening its new season with this 1959 classic, and everything on stage at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts reconfirms the musical's stature. But this isn't a museum piece. Here is a fresh and lively interpretation that belies the show's middle-age status with a production that should reward both newcomers and old fans.

Of course, in Mountain View we don't get Ethel Merman. But according to Arthur Laurents' recent autobiography, having the Merm was a mixed blessing. Not the brightest bulb on Broadway, Merman was a front-and-center performer who didn't have much interest in exploring the character's depths. And, according to Laurents, it wasn't long before she was on autopilot.

I can't predict what will happen to Meg Mackay's Madame Rose between now and July 16, but somehow I suspect that this popular Bay Area performer won't lose the vibrant edge that marked



Meg Mackay as Momma Rose in TheatreWorks' production of *Gypsy*

her opening-night efforts. Mackay may be best known as a singer, but she's also a savvy actress who knows wherein lies the meat of a scene.

The name of the musical is

Gypsy (Gypsy Rose Lee insisted on that), but it's really the story of the relentless stage mother of the future stripper, as well as the child performer who would grow up to be June Havoc. Rose has been

called a monster, but what makes the character fascinating is finding the humanity behind the aggressive façade. It's in Laurents' libretto, but it takes a performer with Mackay's empathetic skills to bring it to life both in dialogue and in song.

New color

The entire production has been sharply mounted by director Robert Kelley and choreographer Bick Goss, whose work acknowledges the basics of Robbins' staging, but who have the confidence to let it take on new shapes and colors. (A visual complement to the overture is a particularly novel touch.) The staging blends easily with designer Tom Langguth's gliding set pieces.

The production crisply follows Rose's efforts to build a vaudeville career for her daughters, a dream she flogs for so long that stripping in burlesque is the only option left to the less talented Louise. But however grim the reality, Rose always manages to find a new

dream to fit the circumstances.

As Louise, who grows up to be Gypsy Rose Lee, Elizabeth Ann Traub is a strong performer with a big voice, and she deftly creates the sensitive girl who becomes a demanding woman. Traub shares a particularly vibrant moment with Gair Morris, a young dancer nicknamed Tulsa, in a wonderful version of the "All I Need Is the Girl" number. Jackson Davis is an able Herbie, Rose's constant suitor, and Kimmy Ross comfortably handles June's role.

But the show belongs to Mackay, and everything in the show leads up to "Rose's Turn," a one-woman musical drama in which the character does an emotional strip. It's make-or-break time for the actress playing Rose. Mackay nails it. ▼

Gypsy will run at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts through July 16. Tickets are \$20-\$38. Call (650) 903-6000.

Deflowered 'Shrew'

by Richard Dodds

The Royal Shakespeare Company's visiting production of *The Taming of the Shrew* has much to recommend it, but a rollicking good time isn't included. For that, you should have headed out to Cal Shakes for its merry cartoon version of Shakespeare's play. By contrast, what the RSC has wrought is downright dour.

Despite an up-to-the-minute framing device that lets the play's chauvinism off the hook, director Lindsay Posner's production isn't much interested in goosing up Shakespeare to offset the play's sometimes shambling mechanics and retrograde sociology. He lets the play speak for itself, and while an honest choice, I suspect that even Shakespeare knew his productions needed a good deal of invention to get us through the belabored plot points.

Posner doesn't seem terribly interested in the subplots about switched identities, saving his clout for an unusually harsh view of the relationship between the cantankerous Katherine and the shrew-taming Petruchio. The food- and sleep-deprivation he inflicts on his new wife looks like serious business in this interpretation, and the laughter it generates is more tempered and uneasy than usual.

What the production does illuminate is how Katherine, while tamed by Petruchio, is still able to play her game of one-upmanship with the rest of the world. The only change, albeit a big one, is that she has had to take Petruchio on as partner.

The touring company of actors at the Herbst Theatre, under the sponsorship of the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, is competent in every way, and sometimes more than that, but don't expect any acting epiphanies from world's greatest interpreter of Shakespeare's plays. While Monica Dolan brings a quirky understated charm to Katherine, Stuart McQuarrie doesn't do much with Petruchio except declaim his lines with clarity.

In the area's battle of the Shrews, it was much easier to recommend the Cal Shakes version. As an audience pleaser, it's obviously superior. But for those ready for a darker variation on the play, the RSC is providing this deflowered staging. Still, and it's a risky supposition, I suspect Shakespeare would have preferred the Cal Shakes treatment. ▼




Monica Dolan in *Taming of the Shrew*

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Back to the bunker

SF Opera's 'Parsifal' revels in its ugliness

by Stephanie von Buchau

The preemptive strike works as well in opera as it does in war and sports. So Lotfi "General Patton" Mansouri knew what he was doing when he had the San Francisco Opera's fatuous program notes about Nikolaus Lehnhoff's controversial *Parsifal* production Xeroxed for the press. I haven't seen all the reviews, but at least one major critic swallowed the bait whole, informing us that Lehnhoff's version of Wagner's last opera is "not calculated to appeal to those who insist on seeing the ritual played out in terms dictated by the Master."

"Specifically," this critic goes

on, "that means there are none of the traditional symbols of Christianity that usually bedeck productions of *Parsifal*—no dove, no crucifix, no Holy Grail." Hello, hello? What productions of *Parsifal* has this critic seen lately? The last one in San Francisco, in 1988, was infamous—those of you with long-suffering memories will recall—for the dancing metal peacock in the Act 2 motel room, and those giant dinosaur eggs lighted from within in the outer acts.

Parsifal at Bayreuth after WWII displayed no symbols at all, Christian or otherwise, making do mostly with columns of light. The last literal Grail I saw was at SFO in 1974, when the late Jess Thomas wrestled with what

looked like a bowl of orange Jello that had an electrical cord attached to its base. As Christian symbols go, that's up there with drive-thru wedding chapels in Las Vegas, portraits of Christ on black velvet with eyes that follow you across the room, and Tammy Faye's mascara.

No, possums, no rational person in our lifetimes has taken *Parsifal* seriously as an exercise in Christian symbolism. Lehnhoff's dramaturg, who penned the pretentious program note, was building a straw man for the redoubtable director to knock down. This is done for two reasons: 1) You figure the audience is dumb as dirt, reactionary as Pat Buchanan, and wants its Wagner served up numbingly literal, or 2) You're not quite sure what you are doing, so throwing dust in the viewer's eyes is a good way to cover up any haziness in your concept. And Lehnhoff's production is long on haziness.

Provocateur

He's also an intellectually stimulating provocateur, in the "Throw it at the wall and see what sticks" mode, and this *Parsifal* is full of provocative ideas. What I don't understand is why it has to be so physically ugly. Most modern artists—obviously including *Parsifal*'s set designer Raimund Bauer and costume designer Andrea Schmidt-Futterer—seem to believe that the political, spiritual and commercial ugliness of our times must be amplified rather than reduced by art. Yet if that were an artistic verity, how do we explain the visual glory that medieval, Renaissance and baroque artists created in the midst of the Black Death, the Inquisition, universal illiteracy, war, starvation, and slavery?

In other words, I have no problem with Lehnhoff virtually rewriting the scenario to *Parsifal*—as long as he doesn't alter the music or text, as Peter Sellars so often does—but why does it have to look so awful? Why the bombed-out bunker, the gray-on-gray monochrome costumes, the slag heaps, the gas masks, etc., when the score and text are screaming flowers, colors, spring, nature, renewal? You can make your points about man's isolation without literally ignoring the music. The Flower Maidens, for instance, look like ghostly nuns in gray habits, wimples and long sleeves, as seductive as concrete unless you are really kinky, but exactly the opposite of what their chromatic music is singing. I kept hoping (in vain) that a few flowers

Catherine Malfitano and Christopher Ventris in SF Opera's *Parsifal*

might crack through the rocky surface of the last act, just as a token towards the composer's concept.

Yet much of that act had me in tears. Catherine Malfitano, who at 52 probably shouldn't be singing a new role as strenuous as Kundry, had a major triumph Sunday afternoon. The part lies perfectly for her dark, gnarly soprano. Her chest voice is sex-on-a-stick, while she pounded out those second act As and Bs (which give your typical mezzo Kundry the dry heaves) with arrogant assurance. Malfitano is *zaftig* to a fault, so why not accentuate her voluptuous curves instead of putting her in a bird suit in Act I and in the damndest carapace of enlarged hips and bustier in Act II? Dressed as a Buddhist nun in Act III, she radiated calm redemption, despite the producer's (not the composer's) conviction that *Parsifal* ends badly.

Jive turkey

Another touching image in Act III was the arrival of the weary *Parsifal* (British tenor Christopher Ventris, making his US opera debut), dressed in elaborate black samurai armor, which he slowly removed before falling exhausted with his forehead pressed to Amfortas' spear. Dressed like a K-Mart Russell Crowe in the first two acts, his tangled red hippie 'do flopping around his head, his eyes burning with misdirected ardor, Ventris was the jivest Wagnerian turkey I've ever seen, which made his transformation to the wise, noble but still unhappy warrior in Act III all the more amazing.

And he can sing, with a lean, pointed tenor that is always audible, never wobbles, shapes the phrases eloquently, and was still fresh for the "Gralerzählung" (sans Grail, of course) in the last scene. He understood exactly what happened when Kundry kissed him,

though I couldn't help feeling that Lehnhoff undercut both composer and his stars when he sent *Parsifal* and Kundry up the railroad track at the end of the opera; the suggestion was that they might be going beddy-bye, all wrong for Wagner, but that may have been what the director had in mind; i.e. if everything else fails, let's try sex.

Railroad track? Someone thought it was meant to suggest the Holocaust, but I found this production mercifully free of gratuitous concentration camp references. Emerging from a black hole like a mine shaft upstage, the track spilled toward the audience. The production's single most arresting moment came during the Good Friday transformation music when, as bells and tympani pounded out their rocking rhythm, Amfortas (Franz Grundheber), mortally wounded (though it appeared more like a burst appendix than a groin injury), in tatters, his crown askew, staggered out of the tunnel and down the tracks. Truly a visual symbol from T.S. Eliot's *Waste-land*, which was Lehnhoff's trigger for this *Parsifal* concept.

Grundheber is a throwback to the days of Wagner baritones with powerful, searing voices. Grandfatherly Kurt Moll (Gurnemanz), who is now 62, gave us an absorbing first act, though he ran out of steam in the Good Friday music. Donald Runnicles produced an orchestral interpretation to match the production—virile, propulsive, exciting, though not sensual or spiritual. Still, with Ian Robertson's chorus (strung all over the house, unamplified as Wagner requires) singing sensationally, this *Parsifal* is a musical triumph. ▼

Parsifal continues in repertory at the War Mem'l through July 2. For tickets, call 864-3330.

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Backstage

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that includes tickets to designated performances of each of the four musicals and a reception for the cast and audience after the show.

Producing director Kevin T. Morales, a Walnut Creek native who has returned home, believes it is "important that the gay community feel welcome to enjoy professional theater in what is usually seen as a very conservative city." It's also a way, Morales says, to give New York-based performers a chance to play to and interact with audiences that don't quite seem so alien.

The four musicals and their "gay performances" are *Cabaret* (July 13), *On the Town* (Aug. 17),

Assassins (March 8), and *Pippin* (May 3). Subscription tickets to the four-show series are \$96. Call (925) 943-7469.

Trauma ward

There's positive buzz around Trauma Flintstone's work-in-progress, and June 30 is the last chance to catch it at the Jon Sims Center. *Return to Caffee Cino* recreates the pioneering programming of the pre-Stonewall gay theater emerging in the cafes of New York's Lower East Side. Early one-acts by Lanford Wilson, Tom Eyen, Terrence McNally, George Birimisa, and Robert Patrick are showcased.

Return to the Caffee Cino is part of the AIRSpace's program providing artists-in-residence a chance to develop works that are

then presented to the public as works-in-progress. AIRSpace is one of the resident programs at the Sims Center, a multidisciplinary performers arts center targeting the LGBT community. The phone is 554-0402.

'Falsettos' land

Way out yonder in Pleasant Hill (that's between Walnut Creek and Concord, for you landlubbers), the Galatean Players Ensemble Theatre is offering the seminal gay musical *Falsettos*. William Finn and James Lapine's 1992 Tony Award-winning tale of an extended family, pre- and post-AIDS, will run through July 8 at the School House Cultural Center Theatre. Call (925) 676-5705 for reservations. ▼

Icky illusions

'Squished Eyeball Theatre' is not for the squeamish

by Mike Sher

The magician's sword pierces the bound assistant's neck. She screams. Blood streams out of her mouth. What next, a miraculous ending to a scary trick? Oops! No miracle here. She's covered up, and Bob Pritikin finishes the first act around her motionless body. It's just another night at the *Squished Eyeball Theatre*, currently playing Thursdays through Sundays at the Union Square Playhouse.

Why does Pritikin do it? He's at the stage in his life when he could just sit back in his Glen Park chateau and look back with pride on his career as an adman, best-selling author, operator of the legendary Mansions Hotel, pianist, saw player and magician. He could enjoy his mansion with its indoor pool, grand staircase, and tokens of a life of success.

If you've ever performed, you'll understand why he keeps on. One of Pritikin's joys in operating the Mansions was to be able to present a magic show there. Patrons enjoyed wine and hors d'oeuvres to the accompaniment of a piano played by ghostly hands, watched the magic show, and sat down to an elegant dinner. The show itself featured as many quips as magic tricks, and was highlighted by the appearance of the severed head of Claudia, the piano-playing daughter of a past owner. She died under mysterious circumstances, and the mystery surrounding her death was never solved. Pritikin was the principal performer, but sometimes talented young magicians would appear. Celebrities like Streisand and Liberace and guests from all over the world visited the hotel.

Certain city authorities weren't fans, however. "Bureaucrap!" fumes Pritikin. Eventually, the pressure became too much to take, and he closed the hotel down, selling off two mansions' worth of antiques and kitsch first. *Squished Eyeball*, he says, is all that remains, a reminder of the hotel's past glory.

House of horrors

What's San Francisco's only currently running magic show, and probably the only magic-horror show in America, like? The second floor lobby of the Union Square Playhouse has been turned into a mini-museum of magic, with more than a bit of ugh! Vomiting Vincent heaves into a barrel, and there's a resignation letter sent by Richard Nixon to Henry Kissinger (you make the connection.) There's a sculpture of rabbits pulling rabbits out of hats. You can buy Eyeball Finger Puppets, Goodye Glowing Eyes and Floating Eyes. Copies of Bob Pritikin's bestseller, *Christ Was an Adman*, and other mementos of his hotel and life stock the lobby.

In the 80-seat theatre, it's magic, mayhem, and messiness. There's a bubble-and-smoke machine. Claudia plays every so often on the piano, even taking a couple of requests. Every couple of weeks, a priest comes in to exorcise her demons, to keep Claudia from getting out of control. And when things slow down, there's always the electric chair, in which a victim twitches and moans with every zap.

Tricks range from small sleight of hand (a live Peking duck moves from hat to hat; cards fly) to larger



Magician Bob Pritikin holds the head of Claudia the ghostly pianist.

illusions, such as a volunteer's head rotating, *Exorcist*-style, in a GE Twist-o-Matic. A guillotine on-stage gets put to good use, and Pritikin plays a few numbers on

the saw. (He once put out an album called *The Last Time I Sawed Paris*.)

Guest magicians sometime appear and present their own mate-

With reservations 'Fully Committed'

by Richard Dodds

Gee, did I miss something? The *Chronicle's* Little Man was leaping out of his seat for *Fully Committed*, and if the *Examiner* had a little man, he'd be jumping for joy as well. My little man just sat there.

Don't get me wrong. The one-man comedy at Theatre on the Square is a genial affair, but neither the material nor the performance is strong enough to pull the other up from the land of just pretty good. If we are to believe the New York reviews, there is a "scaldingly funny" play in this slice-of-life look at the poor slob who takes reservations at a happening restaurant in New York.

The gimmick is that we get to see both sides of every phone conversation, providing the actor who plays Sam the chance to portray 40 or so mostly obnoxious callers who are a study in contrast to his self-effacing persona. This is the definition of a tour de force performance, and the doughy Ethan Sandler is an inviting presence who manages the vocal quick changes with aplomb.

What's missing is the comic skill to let us instantly recognize the person on the other end of the phone line, and to do so with the right amount of satirical exaggeration. With Sandler, you get funny voices that lack an insightful comic edge. Becky Mode's script is really a framework on which this invention can be hung, and it can seem sparse when it's not forthcoming.

There is nothing funny about a line like, "Hello, hello, who am I speaking with?" but you can tell it's supposed to be funny by the way it is delivered, and you can imagine how it could be funny if delivered with a performer with greater range and finesse. Perhaps that's what performer Mark Setlock is able to bring to the hit New York production.

Sandler is at his most agreeable when he's just being Sam, a struggling actor with parent problems, agent problems, and boss problems. It's only a slender thread of plot that weaves through the desperate and the demanding callers in search of a table, but it's hard not to root for Sandler's Sam. I only wish it were easier to laugh at his tireless efforts. ▼



Ethan Sandler

Fully Committed is currently scheduled to run through July 23 at Theatre on the Square. Tickets are \$25-\$35. Call 433-9500.

rial, but the yucky stuff remains — not one, not two, but three severed heads on stage. Scary Harry, one of them, is the emcee. Even the ghost of Elvis leaps out of a coffin to sing.

The show's run is open-ended and still evolving, so what you see now isn't necessarily what you'll get a few weeks from now. But there's always plenty of gore (not Al) on the bill, along with magic, music, and memories of The Mansions. ▼

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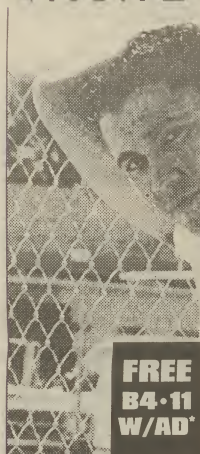
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Acting on her principles

'Out: The Making of a Revolutionary'

by Gary Morris

The US government, abetted as always by a supine media, gets plenty of mileage out of invoking the image of foreign "rogue nations" and "evil empires" suppressing and jailing their own citizens who dare to speak out against their human rights abuses. It's easy to raise hackles on both the left and the right by denouncing such activities in China, Cuba, Iraq, et al., but what about the US itself? Endless moral posturing aside, there's plenty of basis for criticism here.

Out: The Making of a Revolutionary, which plays tonight, June 29, at the Castro Theatre, exposes a little-known fact: "There are 100 political prisoners and prisoners of war in US jails." Some would argue that this figure is woefully low if the definition were broadened to include the hundreds of thousands of poor people and drug-war casualties jamming the

prisons (it's surely no stretch to say that their incarceration serves certain political interests). But the film focuses on a specific kind of political prisoner, the left-wing armed female revolutionary whose politics were formed by American racist/imperialist culture in the '50s and '60s.

Directed by two locals, Rhonda Collins (*We Don't Live Under Normal Conditions*) and Sonja de Vries (*Gay Cuba*), the film is a persuasive double portrait of an individual revolutionary and the culture that created her. Laura Whitehorn grew up in a liberal-to-Left middle-class New York Jewish family. Some of her beliefs can be traced to her parents' socialist leanings and anti-racist activities, but Whitehorn eclipsed — and to some extent disturbed — them by moving into heavier kinds of commitments that eventually led to a 5-year incarceration without trial, and finally to a 20-year sentence, of which she served 14. She was freed from a Dublin, Califor-

nia facility in 1999.

Outsider consciousness

The film skillfully interpolates historical footage of a "whites only" world with the life story of an exceptionally engaging woman who was not only a revolutionary who acted on her principles, but also a lesbian. Her sexual orientation played a crucial part in her political education, giving her an early sense of "outsiderness" which coalesced with her hypersensitivity to racial norms to form a powerful radical consciousness. Of course, the male-dominated white Left of the 1960s, well-known as both sexist and homophobic, wasn't thrilled to see screaming dykes joining their ranks, sometimes commandeering marches and movements. This internal tug-of-war seems to have pushed Whitehorn further in her pursuit of justice.

Her involvement with the Black Panthers and the persistence of the Vietnam War led her and a small cadre of women (some of whom are still in prison) to go from taking over a building in Boston to create a women's center, to performing a series of bombings in military buildings. But unlike the government's indiscriminate use of such weapons, Whitehorn and her group were extremely focused in their attack, "making sure no people were hurt." Nonetheless, she was nailed in 1985 by the FBI, along with her cohorts, and shuffled into the labyrinth of the US prison system. In an article she wrote for the *Washington Post* in 1990, she points out that even at that date she had been imprisoned far longer than KKK leader Don



Laura Whitehorn in *Out: The Making of a Revolutionary*

Black, "who served a mere two years for stockpiling automatic weapons and explosives for an invasion of Dominica"; and longer than Michael Donald Bray, "who served 36 months for bombing 10 abortion clinics."

Out: The Making of a Revolutionary suffers a bit from the music that accompanies this story, a combination of syrupy ballads and screeching agitprop. It's unnecessary. Whitehorn's voice, and the voices of those who worked with her, are more than sufficient. An ideal conduit for the film's critique

of the US as the real "evil empire," Whitehorn is charismatic and highly articulate in explaining the revolutionary mind. In order to pursue a moral goal that will probably disrupt your life forever, she says, your "vision has to be as real and as strong in your heart as the comforts you're giving up." ▼

Out: The Making of a Revolutionary, Thurs., June 29, 6:30 p.m. reception, 8 p.m. screening, Castro Theatre. Tickets \$10. Info: 248-1885.

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INTERVIEW

Born naked

For RuPaul, all the rest is drag

by Ernie Alderete

Although his cable TV series may be history, RuPaul's career is nevertheless in high gear. He and Little Richard were the headliners at the Long Beach Gay Pride festivities in May; he appears in the new movie, *But I'm a Cheerleader*; and he provides the narration for another, the quirky *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*.

Ernie Alderete: What do your friends call you?

RuPaul: Ru. My given name is RuPaul Andre Charles. Andre is my middle name. Charles is my last name.

Did your mother make up the name RuPaul?

Yeah, she was Creole from southern Louisiana. So that pays homage to her roots.

How far south in Louisiana?

She is, she was from St. Martinsville. Which is where a lot of hot sauces come from. She was the hottest of the sauces.

She's not with us now?

She made the transition. I found out that she made the transition when I finished the Gay & Lesbian March on Washington DC. I guess that was in, I think, April of '93.

It's just a fact of life. I miss her physically. But she's still with me. Over the years I've changed my perception of what that is. And that is not what I grew up with, or was taught that it is. It's a good thing.

We all make the transition, and this [life] is really just a pit stop.

You sparkled on the VH1 tribute to Diana Ross. How did you hit it off with the Supreme Diva, Ms. Ross?

I've known her seven years now, and I love her. We have a good time together. It has been a relationship that has grown over the years. I was going to say that was an unexpected surprise, but somewhere deep inside me I knew we would hook up at one point.

Do you think she's less competitive with you because you're a guy?

I think she's competitive with everybody!

Where are you from?

I'm from southeast San Diego. Highway 94 and Euclid Avenue.

What kind of neighborhood was that?

There were some Latinos. But basically it was where the brown-skinned, the black people, lived.

Did you learn Spanish living so close to the border?

No. I really wish I had.

I hear you have a new single in the works.

I have a new album I'm working on. I have a new duet, also, with Lil' Kim. I'm not sure if it made it onto the album, or what. We redid Donna Summer's "Bad Girls."

The album doesn't have a name yet. But I'm real excited about working on an album again after not doing anything musically. You know I continue to perform and sing my own music. But it's great to go back into the stu-



Albert Sanchez

'I have to get to know somebody before we hit the sheets': RuPaul

dio, and write stuff again. I haven't done that in probably two or three years.

I've heard your name mentioned with affection. They say you are the heir to Sylvester's dynamic musical and gay pride legacy.

Hmm, Sylvester. The first transsexual I ever heard of was Christine Jorgenson. Remember her?

About 1972, I first saw Sylvester, and I asked my sister, who is that? And she told me he's a drag queen from San Francisco with a group called the Cockettes. I guess that was my initial introduction to drag queens. He wasn't a transsexual, so I'll say drag queens.

What are you, exactly?

I'm a drag queen, child. I dress up and I'm a performer. You know what I mean. Everyone who steps on stage is in drag, that is not the person who wakes up and rubs their eyes in the morning.

That's true.

Taking it a step further, we're all in drag. We're all little kids playing these grown-up roles. I didn't know that when I went into playing drag, but through the process of doing drag, that is what I learned. We all are drag queens. We are born naked, and the rest is drag.

What would surprise people most about you?

I think that I'm really a "to myself" person. I really don't have a lot of people I hang out with. I have a handful of people I hang with. Friends who I talk to, and call. Maybe that wouldn't surprise people. Anyone who is so flamboyant and out there in public life, I think that's pretty much how it goes.

Do your new dates make a wrong assumption about your role in bed because you are a drag queen? Do they assume you are an exclusive bottom because you wear a sequined gown?

(Rolling on the floor in laughter:) I don't take new dates to bed!

Well, eventually you do, I assume.

I don't really date people the way most people do. I'm a very private person. I have to get to know somebody before we hit the sheets. The person that I am, the person that date would have to get to know, is not a drag queen. Not my stage persona.

What advice do you have for gender-confused pre-teens?

You know what? It's no big deal. It may seem so traumatic at this point and time. The truth is it gets better, it really does. Don't let people around you give you all this stress, because it's just their crap, it has nothing to do with

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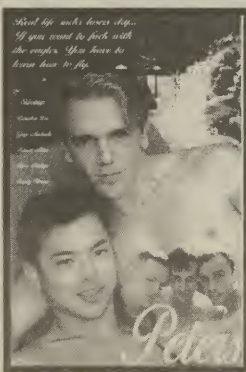
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Fanfare for the uncommon man

'Copland Journey' completes Mavericks Fest

by Philip Campbell

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony finished the American Mavericks Festival last week with a bang-up tribute to composer Aaron Copland. It came in time to celebrate the 100th anniversary of his birth, and coincided nicely with the orchestra's latest compact disc release, *Copland: The Populist*.

This is not to suggest that class commercialism played a part in the heartfelt celebration. It was more a matter of good timing, and since *A Copland Journey* was the only event in this year's series that I was able to attend, I am glad it was such an elaborate and memorable evening, and pleased to savor another installment in the Symphony's Copland discography (the first was *Copland: The Modernist*).

I doubt if many casual listeners would think of the fatherly Aaron Copland, writer of iconic American masterpieces like *Appalachian Spring* and *Rodeo*, as anything much like a maverick, but Tilson Thomas designed the concert to show the progression of Copland's writing from young revolutionary to beloved gray eminence. Frankly, even the "difficult" compositions go down pretty easily today, but when MTT banged and pounded (one must) his way through the extremely influential *Piano Variations*, we could appreciate conductor Walter Damsch's famous remark after leading the premiere of Copland's *Symphony for Organ and Orchestra*: "In five years, he will be ready to commit murder."

The music is anything but murderous in retrospect, and the composer's versatility was well displayed throughout the evening, with everything from an early humorous scherzo for piano, *The Cat and the Mouse* (well played by Peter Grunberg), to the finale from the Third Symphony, justly renowned for the incorporation of the thrilling *Fanfare for the Common Man*. In between, the clearly enthusiastic audience was treated to the snazzy Prologue



Michael Tilson Thomas and Aaron Copland at Tanglewood in 1973

from *Music for the Theatre* (easy to hear the influence on the ballet music of Leonard Bernstein); *In the Beginning* for Soprano and Chorus; the rhythmic Latin American syncopations of *El Salon México* and *Danzón Cubano*; and the wonderful flirtation with serialism, *Inscape*.

Callas or Tebaldi merely floated a phrase, and you knew who was singing; one sentence, and you know you are reading Hemingway, not Fitzgerald; and it is the same way with many of the greatest composers. Even when he was trying a new technique as far from his symphonic jazz or folklorist work as possible, he was still, distinctly, Aaron Copland, and the results were typically enchanting.

MTT's pedigree as a Copland interpreter is undisputed, and was further documented with some charming photos of the two musicians at the piano, shown on big screens at either side of the Davies Hall stage. No one leads a livelier symposium than our breathtakingly energetic maestro, and *A Copland Journey* was no exception. The powerful rendition of the *Piano Variations*, *Inscape*, and the unexpectedly happy inclusion of *The Golden Willow Tree* from *Old American Songs*, sung with great flair by Vance George's San Francisco Symphony Chorus, were the highlights of the concert for me, but the audience outvoted me with *El Salon México* and the

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REVIEW

Popularity

by Philip Campbell

Aaron Copland: *The Populist* — San Francisco Symphony, Michael Tilson Thomas, cond. (RCA Victor Red Seal)



At just under 80 minutes, this generous compact disc manages to present Copland's three most famous ballet scores complete. The success of the previous release *Copland: The Modernist* alerted the international press to Michael Tilson Thomas's affinity with the composer. The fact that the selections on the new disc are more readily accessible works virtually assures a bestseller.

All three scores have been recorded many times, and other interpretations, notably Leonard Slatkin's and, spectacularly, Leonard Bernstein's, are still available in very good sound on compact disc. MTT stakes out his part of the territory with slightly more cerebral, less emotional readings, and he certainly makes a convincing case.

Make no mistake, he is perfectly willing to get excited by the tricky steps of *Rodeo*, and dives into the drama of *Billy the Kid* with something approaching abandon — he just reins himself and his players in before going over the top. That certainly didn't pose a problem for Bernstein; his *Appalachian Spring* veers perilously close to sentimentality. Tilson Thomas emphasizes the transparency and delicacy of the writing, and if his version lacks a certain emotionalism, it is probably better suited to repeated listenings.

One can imagine dancers gratefully looking into the pit while MTT allows them to supply the theatrics, and the sound of the recording is predictably sumptuous. As a companion to the earlier release, this beautifully packaged and documented disc deserves to take its place in anyone's collection. ▼

BOOKS

Blending fact and fiction

William J. Mann on his new Hollywood novel, 'The Biograph Girl'

by Jameson Currier

In 1938, film star Florence Lawrence committed suicide by drinking ant poison in her home in West Hollywood, California. Lawrence, born Florence Bridgewood in Ontario, Canada in 1886, had made more than 250 movies, the majority of them silent film "one-reelers." She was the world's first movie star, finding acclaim as the enigmatic "Biograph Girl," the premier star of D.W. Griffith's New York City-based movie studio, until she faked her suicide and caused a riot with a personal appearance in St. Louis, when director Carl Laemmle announced she was alive and now with the Independent Motion Picture company.

Lawrence became the first actor, male or female, to use her name to advertise not only a single motion picture, but also the production company she worked for, thereby changing the balance of power between a movie studio and performer. Her fame was short-lived, however. By the time the talkies had arrived, Lawrence had been reduced to walk-on roles for MGM. Whether or not Lawrence faked her own suicide in 1938 — as one of a number of publicity stunts that highlighted the ups and downs and comebacks of her career — the incident is the basis of *The Biograph Girl*, an entertaining new novel by journalist William J. Mann.

Mann, 36, a long-time movie fan and year-round resident of Provincetown, is no stranger to uncovering Hollywood's forgotten stories. In 1998, he authored *Wise-cracker*, a biography of actor William Haines, one of MGM's biggest stars in the late 1920s, who was dropped by the studio in 1933 because he refused to hide his homosexuality.

"I have a habit of finding these obscure, forgotten film characters and bringing them back to life," Mann says. "I always felt I wanted to know more about Lawrence. She had become a footnote in film history. She deserved a better fate than she had, so I thought I would try to give it to her."

Ebb and Flo

In *The Biograph Girl*, gay journalist Richard Sheehan discovers the sharp-witted, chain-smoking 107-year-old Florence Bridgewood residing in a Catholic nursing home in Buffalo while he is pursuing a story on the elderly. Captivated by Bridgewood's personal history and her vaudeville childhood as "Baby Flo, The Child Wonder Whistler," Richard hopes to uncover the mystery of whether or not Florence Bridgewood is movie star Florence Lawrence, and if so, then who lies buried in Lawrence's California grave. Also pursuing the story is Richard's ambitious twin brother, Ben, a straight documentary filmmaker eager to jump-start his career into feature filmmaking with Lawrence's life story.

As he did for his biography of Haines, Mann heavily researched Hollywood's archives to create his novelization of Florence Lawrence. Among the sources he consulted were the film collections at the New York Public Library of the Performing Arts, and the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences library in Los Angeles, as well as Lawrence's let-

ters and correspondence archived at the Museum of Natural History in Los Angeles.

"My goal was to make the basic fundamental details of her life true, so that this could really be a story if she were found," Mann says. "I wanted to make sure all the data about her was accurate."

Mann says that the fictional elements of his novel include not only Lawrence's missing years since the 1938 suicide, but fleshing out the details of her marriages and relationships. Lawrence was married three times, though Mann believes "she never found much happiness" in any of them. Consequently, Mann decided to create several strong same-sex relationships for Lawrence in his novel, particularly an early one between the young Flo and Linda Arvidson, an actress who later became Griffith's wife.

"It makes sense that her first real love would be a woman," Mann explains. "Lawrence was someone who the established



Author William J. Mann

rules didn't work very well for; she was always rebelling against them. Using a lesbian or a same-sex love enabled me to get inside her character a little bit more, and show her as this maverick person living in a man's world."

Mann also fleshed out what it was like for Lawrence while working at the Biograph studio in New York City. The actress left no memoir or diary of that period, though others exist of that time, notably Lillian Gish's. One of the things Mann says he discovered while writing the novel was how similar the notions of celebrity and fame were in the early 20th-century to what they are now. "It was more mysterious and new then," he notes, "but Lawrence was dealing with the same issues that Princess Diana was dealing with. She was a pretty feisty lady who cracked under the demands of stardom."

Fire on the set?

Several mysteries which continue to surround the career of Florence Lawrence are also included in Mann's novel. Lawrence withdrew from films during a period around 1915, suggested perhaps by her involvement in and reaction to a fire while filming on

a movie set, though Mann notes that no such record exists of a fire of the magnitude Lawrence claimed for her absence. That Florence Lawrence may have been pregnant in 1915 has been speculated about in *Florence Lawrence, the Biograph Girl*, Kelly Brown's 1999 biography of Lawrence. Mann also used this mystery to create a fictional character in *The Biograph Girl*, Molly Butz, a young actress who lived with Lawrence during the time of the 1938 suicide, and who may or may not have been the actress' daughter.

"I love ambiguity, and I like leaving doors open," Mann says. "Leaving enough room for the reader to imagine what he or she wants to see."

Halfway through his research for *The Biograph Girl*, Mann also uncovered discrepancies in Lawrence's birth records. Lawrence had previously been believed to have been born in 1890.

"I had made this commitment

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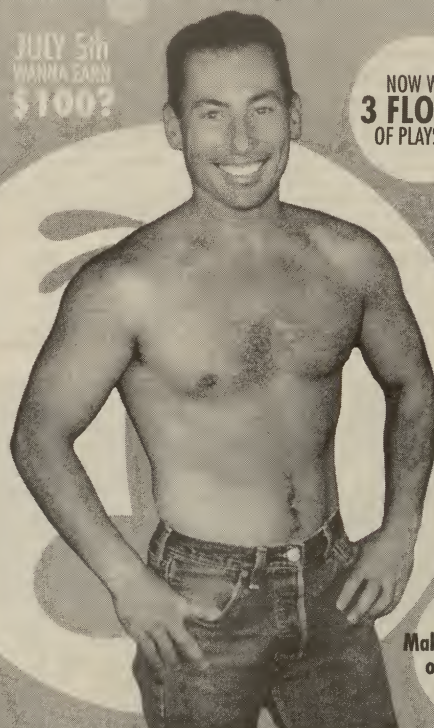
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



The denizens of Rio Orgullo (Pride River).

Amazonas

It flowed just like a river, like a wide, deep, unimaginably long Amazon of iridescent humanity. The fat main stem of this *Rio Orgullo* in the summer of 2000 surged with the kind of tidal irresistibility that propels massive volumes of water to break dams, wash away highways, and sweep away doubters.

Along the shores — a populace as thick and lush as any pristine jungle, as complexly interlaced as any mangrove. Eddies formed here and there as people clumped, collided, swirled about, did little dances and continued on. Some clusters broke off, got sucked into the central current and were swept helplessly downstream, so much flotsam and jetsam. Together they flooded not just the river's main artery, but its countless tributaries, swamping every little byway, bubbling into every nook and cranny, enriching the earth.

I've never flowed with the main stream. In my 18 years in San Francisco, with that many Pride Parades under my belt, I've always skirted the edges of the *Rio Orgullo*, exploring it and wondering at it like some adventuring Humboldt attempting to classify and categorize the wild variety of species in the ecosystem. This year I left the main artery altogether, venturing up a tributary to a little backwater inlet, a place normally all but deserted, but on this Pride day abundant with life, with two species dominating.

I could have hauled in at the habitats of leather people, Gay Asian and Pacific Islanders, Black and White Men Together, faux nuns (always seeking converts among the natives), fresh-water drag queens (distinctly different from their salt-water kin), dykes on bikes (and scooters and skateboards), clean-cut, fresh-faced Midwestern preppies (*Preppus midwesternus*), or any of a thousand other subspecies. But that part of me that's always seeking mountaintops, remote villages, rainforest canopies and obscure cultural rituals sought out the particularly exotic, little-known habitats of *Homo raverus* and *Homo faerie*. These are the varieties known for their readiness to shed most or all of their skins at a moment's notice and dance like crazy, smiling ecstatically, giving off a vibe alien to any but their own kind.

The differences are subtle, the relationships symbiotic. Faeries (to use the vulgate) dance mainly in circles, while Ravers dance facing deejays or amplifiers, focusing on the music as the Source of All Being. Faeries, identifying with nature gods and goddesses long abandoned by more "evolved" creatures, adorn themselves with feathers, sea shells, beads, saris, plastic bracelets, gaudy headgear, and whatever thrift-store baubles they can scavenge. Ravers trend toward a well-defined skater-punk look especially adapted to quickly occupying and bringing to life any temporarily abandoned niche in the ecosystem. They form hives of gesticulating arms in spaces pervaded by the scents of body musk and cannabis. Their minimal covering allows them to display their slim musculature to maximum advantage, presenting powerful lures to potential mates.

As any eager explorer will do, rather than objectifying my subjects from afar, I leaped into their ritual, becoming one with the mass of whirling dervishes, reaching up to the sun, leaping about rhythmically, paying homage to the mesmerizing sounds emanating from the Queen Bee, a massive creature resembling a large pupae (some would describe it more as a space ship on wheels). However that... that *thing* wound up where it did, its pheromonal perfume attracted hordes of Faeries and Ravers, who came to suck spiritual sustenance from it.

Elsewhere the human tide was receding as the massive *Rio Orgullo* dried up, not to reappear until the next summer of Pride. One heard tales of other rituals taking place throughout the floodplain, the various species displaying their unique characteristics. To the Faeries and Ravers dancing the night away in their own cozy cocoon, it was all good. ▼



Soledad Barrio and Noche Flamenco sizzle on stage at Theatre Artaud. See Saturday.

Fri 30

Jon Sims Center

AIRspace artist in residence Trauma Flintstone recreates five terse one-act plays written in the pre-Stonewall era of New York City's Lower East Side. A workshop production. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLÖF). 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: www.jonsimsctr.org

Mission Cultural Center

Queer Latina/o Festival 2000 presents "The Last Kiss," directed by Luis Oropeza, a look into the mind of the poet Federico Garcia Lorca in the last hour before his assassination. \$10. 8pm. Thru Sun., 7/2. 2868 Mission St. (at 24th St.). Info: 648-3702; www.quelaco.org. Tix: www.queerculturalcenter.org

Yerba Buena Center

José Luis Moscovich conducts the SF Camerata in "The Tango Project," an evening of orchestral tangos. Legendary violinist Fernando Suárez Paz will play the US premiere of *Concierto*

en Canto Negroriano by Gabriel Senanes, and Argentinean pianist Eduardo Delgado will solo in Astor Piazzola's *The Four Seasons*. Plus much more. \$25. 8pm. The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Info/tix: 978-ARTS.

Magic Theatre

Preview: "Summertime," a world premiere by playwright Charles Mee, set in and around a garden terrace. In a Fellini-esque world of sexual sophistication, passionate characters reveal details of past trysts and try to determine the exact nature of their complicated relationships to one another. \$15 previews (also July 1, 5 & 6). Opens July 7. 8pm. Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center. Tix/info: 441-8822; www.magictheatre.org

Sat 1

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Castro to Fisherman's Wharf hike and enjoy



Cesaria Evora performs at Masonic Auditorium. See Saturday.

several of the scenic parks and neighborhoods of SF. It's a moderate but brisk city hike. Meet 9:45am at Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro & Market). Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Zeum Courtyard

"Avant-Yard 2000: Challenge Their Ears!" presents the first of five free outdoor concerts throughout July, this week featuring composer and improviser Miya Masaoka. She augments her main instrument, the Japanese koto, with electronics. 1pm. Yerba Buena Gardens. Info: www.zeum.org

Masonic Auditorium

SFJazz presents singing sensation Cesaria Evora, "the barefoot diva" of Cape Verde, off the coast of Senegal, West Africa. The sultry Evora has become a world-wide celebrity with her slow, rhythmic Afro-Portuguese blues. She has come to personify the island's passionate and tragic *morna* style, Portuguese *fados*, Argentinian tangos, and Brazilian *modinhas*. \$20-\$48. 8pm. California & Taylor streets. Info/tix: 776-1999; www.sfjazz.org

Fillmore Street

"Fillmore Street Jazz Festival," featuring continuous music on three stages, including Kitty Margolis, Ledisi, Broun Fellinis, and many others. With a juried show of works by some 300 artists, plus food and beverage purveyors. Free. 10am-6pm (also on July 2). On Fillmore St. btwn Eddy and Jackson. Info: 1-800-731-0003; www.FillmoreStreetJazzFest.com

Theatre Artaud

"Noche Flamenca," an electrifying, classic flamenco troupe of dancers, singers and guitarists improvising solos and duets within a tightly choreographed framework. \$25 & \$30. 8pm. Also on 7/2 at 5pm. 450 Florida St. 621-7797.

Women's Building

The Native American AIDS Project and the Native American Cultural Center present "Pictures from the People," an art show and auction of Native American arts and crafts. Free food and live entertainment, with per-



Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto* plays outdoors at Stern Grove. See Sunday.



Nina Gold and Jon Flanagan inhabit the Fellini-esque world of *Summertime* at Magic Theatre. See Friday.

performances by The Penetrators and traditional Native American dancers and singers. \$10 donation. 4pm-midnight. 3543 18th St. (btwn Guerrero & Valencia). 522-2460.

ATA Gallery

Frank Moore's video, "The Outrageous Beauty Revue," a collection of tacky, wacky, shocking acts from the infamous OBR, which explored the outer limits of bad taste every weekend in the late 1970s at the punk mecca The Fab Mab. Scenes of freaks, exhibitionists, and the seriously deranged. \$5. 8pm. 992 Valencia St. (at 21st St.). Info: (510) 526-7858.

King Street Garage

New Wave City spins out a "Duran Duran Tribute Night" in honor of the band's new release, *Pop Trash*. DJs Skip & Shindog play lots of their classic music for the dance floor, along with other New Wave hits. Giveaways of the CD and other Duran Duran prizes from Hollywood Records. \$5 b4 10pm; \$10 after. 9pm-3am. 21 +w/ID. 174 King St. (btwn 2nd & 3rd streets). 675-LOVE; www.newwavecity.com

Sun 2

Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together (MACT) hold their monthly beer/soda bust. \$7 for unlimited beer/soda. 4-8pm. 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th St.). Info: 675-0201.

Stern Grove

Stern Grove Festival presents "Giuseppe Verdi's *Rigoletto*," featuring the San Francisco Opera Center's Merola Opera Program, one of the oldest and most prestigious training programs in the world for opera performers. Fully staged and costumed; sung in Italian. With Baritone Kwang Shik Pang in the title role. A family affair. Bring picnic and arrive real

early to claim a patch of ground. Free. 2pm. 19th Ave. & Sloat Blvd. Info: 252-6252; www.sterngrove.org

Mon 3

Piaf's

QComedy.com and Bay Area Theatresports present "LaughingWood Stock," a benefit for Bats Laughingstock, a free improv workshop for people with HIV/AIDS. Hosted by Nick Leonard, with Maureen Brownsey, Doug Holsclaw, Dan Rothenberg, Danny Williams, the Meehan Brothers, Karen Ripley, musical guest Helen Slayton-Hughes, and Bridget Schwartz. \$10-\$50 (give as you can). 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Tue 4

Yerba Buena Gardens

"An Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic," with non-stop entertainment, food, arts & crafts. Featuring the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band performing "Freedom Dreams," a new overture by Jennifer Higdon celebrating families of choice. Also: the Dixieland Dykes +3, Tuffy Elderidge, and Mr Pat-a-cake. Emceed by Chaz Martinez. Bring a blanket & picnic. Sponsored by the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, the Alternative Family Project, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, all Our Families Coalition, American Composers Forum, Harvey Milk Institute, Queer Cultural Center, and City Arts. Free. 11am-3pm. Info: 978-ARTS.

Baker Beach

"Nude Freedom Day" in the clothing-optional zone at the northern end of the beach, toward Golden Gate bridge. Look for the rainbow flag. Possible body painting and performance art.

Nudity/drag/fetish welcome. Free. About 1pm. Info: Tortuga BI Liberty, 435-8794.

Wed 5

A Different Light

Jack Ransom reads from *Fishing for Piranha*, with zany characters including DeAndrea DeLucca, a famous self-help star whose dog is in electroshock therapy. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Plush Room

Song stylist Wesla Whitfield performs "Absolutely Arlen," featuring the great songs of Harold Arlen, accompanied by Mike Greensill. \$20 Wed., Thu., & Sun.; \$25 Fri. & Sat. Thu. July 23. 8pm. York Hotel. 885-2800.

The EndUp

"House of Stone," a weekly dance celebration with resident DJs Blackstone, Sam S., and Charlotte the Baroness. \$7. 10pm-4am. 21 +w/ID. 401 Sixth St. (at Harrison).

Thu 6

Metropolitan Community Church

"Resurrection Bingo," hosted by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. Take a chance at winning cash prizes. Proceeds go to neighborhood nonprofits. 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: Sister Betty Does, LNM, 252-9653.

A Different Light

Harrison Pope reads from *The Adonis Complex*, discussing how men's pursuit of the body perfect has led to a new form of personal misery. The book offers guidance on how to regain control of one's body and life. Free. 7:30pm. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

City Nights

"Club Faith." Cryst-T La Scivious (with sidekick Kitty Kunt) hosts "Drag Races" in which five boys strip to their underwear, then transform themselves into divas of the night. DJ Phil B. (Mass; Metropolis) brings on the soaring dance energy. Front-room R&B and hip-hop sounds by DJs Jay-R and Larry. \$10 door. 9:30pm-2am. 18 +w/ID. 715 Harrison St. (at 3rd St.). 487-6616.

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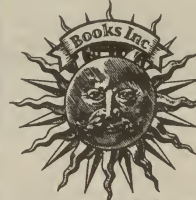
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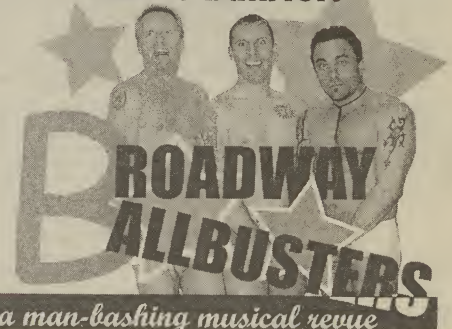
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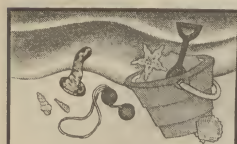
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Excellent danger, broken hearts

by Alex Robertson Textor

Valencia by Michelle Tea; Seal Press, \$13

Valencia, Michelle Tea's sophomore memoir, cruises through 1990s dyke San Francisco, equally sensitive to the mundane and the uncanny. Tea is a published poet and author of the coming-of-age memoir *The Passionate Mistakes and Intricate Corruption of One Girl in America* (Semiotext[e]).

As one of the founders of Sister Spit, Tea reflects a spoken-word context in her writing. When Tea writes, "I am hyper enough already that people have mistaken me for a speed freak and avoided making my acquaintance," a reader doesn't need to have experienced her in performance to understand instinctively what she's getting at. These pages are jittery, saturated with adrenaline or caffeine or some other internal fuel. They read bullet-fast, as if they are being spoken.

Valencia is a local story, describing the universe of San Francisco. The icons are familiar ones: Muni buses, The Bearded Lady, Frank Jordan's presence at the Pride Parade, Tribe 8, the Casanova, even an amusing, speed-driven visit to Club Universe. This is a story of San Francisco the way queers, and particularly dykes in the Mission, have lived it — the social claustrophobia, the everyday and quickly-changing radical politics, the sub-cultural specificity, the ennui, the patching together of boring jobs, the brilliant excitement.

The girls in *Valencia* are strange and sexy, pushing their own limits constantly. They do all sorts of things: each other, dance, break hearts, drugs, tell people off, flirt, have affairs. Throughout, San Francisco is glorious, dirty and



dignified. Tea refigures the grime of the city into a beautiful and regenerating backdrop for her characters' dramas. And drama is on nearly every page, sometimes nerve-wracking drama, sometimes inviting drama that you, the reader, want to enter and breathe. Things change quickly in a city,

and *Valencia* reminds me of the early-to-mid-1990s, when direct action politics had started to decline, but a delicate enthusiasm was still prevalent. Excitement was for one-night-a-week clubs, tiny but thrilling social scenes, public demonstrations, and hot vintage-store chic. I'm a fag, not a dyke, and Tea's narrative intersects with mine instead of directly describing it. Still, I've never come across so poignant and riveting a set of descriptions of the life I've known in this city.

History lessons

Valencia is also a kind of historical document, even today, chronicling a San Francisco that high-tech loftland-style gentrification doesn't understand and can never emulate. It's a different kind of cool, and quite frankly, I'd take it any day over *Wallpaper* magazine gloss. *Valencia* is pre-"pre-IPO." It's never-IPO. It's of a past that's kind of the present, but not quite.

Valencia is intensely colloquial, both in terms of its language and its subject matter. Tea's most obvi-

ous influence is Eileen Miles, though lines can be drawn to include her in the San Francisco-based "New Narrative" school. The "New Narrative" school dates back to the mid-1970s, and includes Robert Glück, Bruce Boone, and Dodie Bellamy, among others. Contexts and influences aside, Tea's writing voice is seductively unique.

Her words are sharp and physical, embodied and tangible. The writing in *Valencia* is noteworthy for its straightforwardness. *Valencia* is confessional and immediate, bits and pieces of life presented in the glory of their daily regularity. The details are thick and intimate. It's only in the places where Tea shifts a bit toward the epic, as in the final chapter, that her narrative departs from its own conventions.

Valencia is one of the few books I've read in ages that made me laugh out loud in public. Book reviews are supposed to be impartial, I know, and I'm sorry, but *Valencia* is like vitamins, or a fewewizeen on a hot day. You just may need it. ▼

Expressing the ineffable

by Deborah Peifer

Squares and Courtyards by Marilyn Hacker; Norton, \$21

There ought to be a larger word than poet to describe Marilyn Hacker, a bigger word than poetry to define what she writes. She captures moments, emotions, loss, and love with language that is both intensely spare and impossibly rich. When I received her latest collection for review (hosannas all around that day), I decided to look

through some poetry anthologies, and there she was, in Emma Donoghue's *Poems Between Women* (Columbia), Lillian Faderman's *Chloe Plus Olivia* (Viking), and Lesléa Newman's *My Lover Is a Woman* (Ballantine). What can I say? Hacker is a poet whose artistry is readily recognizable.

Squares and Courtyards is a book of memories, of illness and death, of gardens and childhood. Each poem is filled with characters as complex as those you'll find in any great novel, persons about whom we learn to care very quickly. Consider the poem for Iva, "Grief," which concerns the death of a young woman's best friend: "Your grief came in/to us like another illness, one which we/could hardly palliate with soup and tea,/which didn't stop me from making tea again/when I could let you go." Hacker captures with shocking precision the awful helplessness we feel at another's unbearable bereavement. She comments on our fear of aging and the willingness to do anything to stop time with a breathtaking reflection that we act "as if dailiness forestalled change/as if we didn't grow old (or not) and die/as long as someone listened when we spoke."

Many of the poems in this tremendously moving compilation have to do with death, a sub-



ject with which we have all had too much experience. Hacker faces death unsentimentally, defying anguish to observe: "Two funerals in June, in two/countries, in one week./Death has a tendency to overdo/and life to border on the bathetic." Whether recalling her own childhood ("the boy in me who's looking out," or "A question mark in yellow overalls") or the slow dying of her friend, Zenka ("Immobile, she awaits hot soup or pain"), Hacker finds the precisely perfect words to express the ineffable, to remind us of our connectedness and our mortality. *Squares and Courtyards* is astonishing. Don't miss it. ▼

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Virgin records

by Marv. Shaw

Nothing Is Terrible by Matthew Sharpe; Villard, \$23.95

Catapulted at age 12 into a tumultuous adolescence by the murder of her twin brother Paul, Mary White, whose father and mother are killed in an automobile accident, is being raised by her hapless aunt and uncle Myra and Tommy. She is beguiled by her sixth-grade teacher Skip Hartman, a 35-year-old of astonishing means, into a relationship that is a combination of

next page ►



MUSIC

Freedom Dreams

◀ Arts cover

impression on me. I often wonder about the music, if that movie may have affected me. They're playing the piece *Also Sprach Zarathustra* in that huge scene that's supposed to represent the emergence of man, and I've often wondered whether that big sound had an effect."

While her parents were never musicians, their involvement in experimental art forms seems to have seeped into Higdon's approach to music, both performing and composing. She taught herself how to play flute as a teenager from an instrumental methods book lying around their house, winning the principal chair at her first audition. As a composer, Higdon said she creates music by feel, selecting sound combinations for their mood and impression, rather than using some standard composition form or method. In fact, Higdon's major campaign with her students at Curtis stresses the importance of creating new classical-style music that reflects its current time. No music — even the pieces we consider to be classics today — were ever created in a vacuum.

"I think music will die if we don't have that — a representation of our own time," Higdon said. "If art doesn't progress, it dies."

Dry country

Where Higdon's childhood was rooted in counterculture, Lawsen was embedded in the rock of the Southern Baptist Church. Born and raised in Maryville along with virtually her entire extended family, she sang in her church choir (which cut an album when she was in elementary school, before Jennifer had recorded, Lawsen notes with a laugh), and several of her uncles are Baptist ministers. One uncle forbade his wife to shop in any store that carried beer as their once-dry town fell to more secular concerns, and after months of scouring the countryside for acceptable grocers, she finally told him he'd have to let that issue go or starve. It was apparently a hard choice.

"You've heard the phrase, 'being in church every time the doors were open?'" Lawsen asked.



Composer Jennifer Higdon rehearses with the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band.

"Well, that was my family."

First sight

In a family that didn't expect girls to attend college, the idea of a lesbian family member was unspeakable. It's astounding, then, that at age 14, at her very first high school band rehearsal, Lawsen set her sights on Higdon, years before Higdon understood their mutual attraction, and later handily weathered the firestorm that followed their romantic involvement. The couple got together only months before Higdon left for college in Ohio, two years ahead of Lawsen. They secretly planned for Lawsen to apply to the same college and follow her after high school, not telling even their closest friends, because they'd seen other gay kids harassed into leaving town or killing themselves.

After Lawsen's mother rooted through her drawers and found a love letter from Higdon a few months later, all Southern Baptistism broke loose. When Lawsen's parents threatened to have Higdon charged with statutory rape if she ever saw her again, Lawsen stuck to her guns and negotiated a compromise: she would see a shrink of her mother's choosing in exchange for chaperoned commu-

nication with Higdon. Lawsen coolly went through a parade of professionals, each rejected in turn by her mother when they failed to change her. Two years and four shrinks later, she graduated and set off for Bowling Green before her parents could protest.

Today, Higdon and Lawsen are business partners as well as life partners. Lawdon Press (an amalgam of their last names) is the family business under which Higdon's compositions are published and distributed, with Lawsen managing all the business logistics. Their early conflict with Lawsen's parents is behind them, and today the couple is considered to be part of the family. After carv-

ing out acceptance for her own immediate family, Higdon said the focus on the right for gays to marry and have legally sanctioned families is important.

"Not everyone will want to avail themselves of these rights, if granted," Higdon responded, "but this is the 'land of the free,' and so all people should have the right to choose without having anyone dictate what they can and cannot do. Talk about lack of 'religious' freedom! It's the sheer principle of the thing. There should be complete freedom to choose, with nothing held back from any group of people."

And what sounds has Higdon chosen to celebrate GLBT families and their struggles, in *Freedom Dreams*?

"I was looking for an American sound, what people associate as an open sort of sound, kind of like Copland," Higdon said. "In the march in particular, I thought of a big sound coming at you, like it was pushing forward, no matter what. Because we're marching forward, no matter how many setbacks there are." ▼

The world premiere of Jennifer Higdon's *Freedom Dreams* takes place at the Ol' Fashioned 4th of July Alternative Family Picnic at Yerba Buena Gardens, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Tuesday, July 4, 701 Mission Street. Admission is free.

Defined by love

In *Freedom Dreams*, all people are accepted without thought for their differences, and diversity is celebrated. Families are defined only by their love for one another, and individuals have equal voice. This piece consists of a fanfare, a lyrical poem, and a march... The fanfare proclaims the belief that the spirit can overcome and persevere with noble and bold heart. The poem sings of the calm and joy that comes with a heart full of love. The march is the insistence of the right of all people to be able to live in dignity and freedom."

— Professor Jennifer Higdon on *Freedom Dreams*

William J. Mann

◀ page 39

that all of the historical records should be accurate," he says. "I couldn't pretend that she was born in 1890, so I had a character discover that the government census records note she was born in 1886. When she attempted to make her comeback she had lobbed four years off her age — which was not unusual in Hollywood."

Mann's next project will also explore more of Hollywood's hidden history and forgotten stories.

He's currently at work on a non-fiction book titled *Behind the Scenes, Between the Lines*, which will look at what it was like to be gay and working in the studio system during the years from 1930 to 1960.

Mann notes that researchers and biographers have finally reached a turning point in mining Hollywood's gay and lesbian past and untold stories.

"We're finally in a period where we can write about this and it's not considered scandalous," he says. "Now it's considered thoughtful, not sensational." ▼

Matthew Sharpe

◀ previous page

dominations: surrogate mother and butch lover.

It is when that mother-daughter affair becomes apparent to the reader, as Mary's adventures unfold, that Sharpe's satiric intentions become obvious. Mary's life becomes a crazy-house mirror in which various drugs, sexual proclivities and means are tried — or are thrust upon her.

Manhattan and American suburbia are the satiric targets, as are the

milieus of America's teenagers, and the co-existent problems and solutions of the races. One compelling but probably physically impossible example is when Mary's off-and-on boyfriend Mittler manages to lip-lock himself to her. They continue the usual actions nevertheless.

Skip Hartman — also known from time to time as September — is the magnet drawing Mary back again and again into a mother-daughter relationship. Mary is ready to leave adolescence, however, and assume all the adulthood she will ever be capable of — and the culture will allow her. ▼

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To donate leather call Lion Tom Rodgers, 861-0516 after 6
pm, or bring items to the auction.



Pride and freedom

by Mister Marcus

Some reports estimate a million or more people showed up at last Sunday's Pride Parade and Celebration 2000 here in sunny San Francisco. Whatever the final count turns out to be, "It's About Freedom" was a smashing success. Every conceivable lifestyle was put on display, including, of course, those misguided Christian fundamentalists who dare to hold up obnoxious signs amid the glorious lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender crowd. Still, Mother Nature smiled down on the mass of humanity that lined Market Street, delivering a warm, even balmy day. No cold, shivering, shrunken nipples were seen on this Pride day: both men and women flaunted their sexuality with udder abandon.

The floats were superb, most notably the AIDS Emergency Fund float created by our own Glennon Sutter with a lot of help from Werner Tillinger and the crew. The men of Bare Chest Calendar 2001 almost didn't have a float. The fink who was supposed to put it all together notified SMMILE late Friday afternoon that he was "too overwhelmed" to put it together, so the



Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear, left, and IMsL Pam Meyer welcomed Int'l. Drummer Boy Woodie Barnes to the SF Pride Celebration last Sunday, June 26 in San Francisco.

13 calendar men and their friends and boyfriends stayed up all night Friday and Saturday putting it together. The crowd roared its approval of the result.

Not to be outdone, the Leather Pride contingent appeared splendid in shiny black leathers and spit-shined boots, with almost 100 bikes accompanying the marchers. It was a magnificent showing with a

choice spot in the lineup. The crowd roared its approval at every intersection.

San Francisco's leather contingent boasted a trio of former International Mr. Leathers — Joe Gallagher, Jeff Tucker and David Kloss — one Int'l. Ms. Leather, Pam Meyer, and International Drummer Boy Woodie Barnes.

The Civic Center was bursting at the seams with beverage and food booths, with the booths of nonprofit organizations almost

next page ►



Bazaar



The magnificent 13 bare chest calendar men for the 2001 edition lined up for this photo just before stepping off for the big Pride Parade last Sunday.

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, June 29-July 2

"Living in Leather" weekend conference with all sorts of workshops, demos, play parties, dances and leather fun galore. All sorts of important leather people will be there!

Sunday, July 2

San Franciscans MC beer/soda bust at the Eagle, \$8 for all the foam you can absorb, a fab buffet, and schmoozing a la carte.

Weekend, July 1 and 2

Always a lot of leather at the Fillmore Street Fair, which runs from 11 a.m. both days, with cool sounds all up and down the street. The usual booths, food, booze, and bodies galore.

Tuesday, July 4

This Independence Day, the San Franciscans MC once again take over the Eagle patio from 1500-1800, with an \$8 beverage benefit, sumptuous food, and the first holiday of the summer.

Wednesday, July 5

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets tonight at Club Eros, at 1930. Subject: "Edge Play," the taboo around blood, scat and breath. Expounding on same: Dick Manning, Richard Spruitt and Rich Reidy. Don't miss this fascinating discussion!

Thursday, July 6

Big Basket Contest at the Edge tonight. Action begins at around 2100, with the Old Bag kibitzing,

Eric grinning, and big baskets bulging onstage.

Weekend July 7-9

The Cal Eagles MC weekend bike run to Pismo Beach, with most of the action at the Spyglass Inn. Their flyer states they are leaving at 0930 on Friday morning, July 7, but they didn't state from where! For more info, click on: www.blackiris.com/~CalEagles or email to CalEagles@blackiris.com.

In Baltimore? Check in at the Baltimore Eagle for the Mid-Atlantic Drummer and Drummer Boy contests. The contest is on Saturday night, July 8.

Sunday, July 9

Bargains in leather gear at the annual Castro Lions Leather Auction and beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, with all the beer you can handle, plus good food. Don't miss this one!

Wednesday, July 12

Flow freely and frequently! It's Golden Shower Buddies at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2000-2300. Get wet. Call 863-HEAD.

Sunday, July 16

The Inter-Club Fund of SF will be having a beer/soda bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8 food.

Weekend, July 21-23

It's Pam Meyers' swan song in Toronto, Canada for the International Ms. Leather competition in that fabulous city. More details next week on this major leather event.

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POLKSTRASSE

Good morning, Scooby Doo!

by Sweet Lips

Saturday morning cartoons: just like a fine wine, they only get better with age. The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess host a Cartoon and Sleepwear Party Saturday, July 8, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Club Rendez-vous. You haven't lived until you've seen Lips in her nightie, chortling to the antics of Porky Pig.

Roll call: Little Mikey of Reflections is going back East in July for a three-month vacation. That means Danny of the Cinch Saloon will be playing around — I hope!

Yes, you've heard it, and you still haven't believed it: Greta Grass is truly still on at the Hob Nob Lounge, Thurs. & Fri., 6 a.m. til Noon., and Greta's looking so good.

Dickie Deemer is having a fabulous summer in Fire Island Pines, and making tons of money to spend on his Ramon.

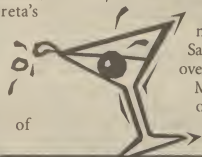
Kevin, the congenial manager of Harvey's at 18th & Castro, certainly knows how to make you feel welcome. Great place for

ladies who lunch.

Kenny Allison and Duffy are back East on a trip, which means Nooch is in charge at the Giraffe. Ken is the new morning bartender. Say good morning to him over a Bloody Mary.

Maye's Oyster House on Polkstrasse is serving up raw oysters and oysters Rockefeller. Joe is doing a great job there.

Hope you enjoyed your Pride weekend. The Parade was really fabulous! ▼



Cocktail Hour

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

outnumbering the commercial entities.

Lots of talent was on display at the Pride Stage (corner of Larkin & McAllister), orchestrated by the indefatigable Donna Sachet, with Bob Brunson directing. The entertainment continued non-stop all afternoon and the crowd loved it.

In response to certain inquiries, be it known that Int'l. Mr. Leather Mike Taylor and second runner-up Bob "Puppy" Pedder marched in the Pride Parade in Chicago. Yes, leather pride was on parade across the continent.

All around Pride

Earlier in the week, on Friday night, June 23, the Phoenix Uniform Club hosted the 9th Annual Uniform & Leather Ball in the Green Room of the War Memorial Building. The talented Gail Wilson opened the show with her signature song, "Tangerine," and the sounds of revelry continued almost non-stop all evening. Uni-

forms galore (and quite a few spiffy tartan skirts; did you catch Nello Carlini?) were on display, with men and women sporting military outfits from Russia, East Germany, Canada, Czechoslovakia and, of course, the U.S. Everyone who sampled the hors d'oeuvres and buffet declared them to be superb.

On Saturday morning, Donna Sachet and Gary Virginia hosted the Pride Brunch at the fabulous Stars Restaurant on Golden Gate Ave. Most of the parade grand marshals were there, and even Da Mayor showed up for a brief visit. It was a Who's Who of the San Francisco gay glitterati; flash bulbs were popping all over the place.

It was a wonderful weekend full of events appealing to almost everyone's taste, and tourists galore all over the city caused long lines at bars and restaurants. But they were keeping San Francisco green — those who keep records of such things say the city's economy was boosted by almost \$6 million. Not bad for this little city on the Left Coast. Not bad at all.

Already, plans are under way

for the 2001 parade. If it becomes a game of "Can You Top This?", the bets are on that the 2001 Pride Parade and Celebration will be even more spectacular. Any takers?

What's goin' down

Lots of leather events are coming your way in the next few weeks. If you're sticking around town this weekend, the Fillmore Street Fair (from Eddy to Jackson) will hold center stage on both Saturday and Sunday, July 1 and 2. You'll always find lots of gay and leather people at this one, where jazz prevails in the hot sun.

In Seattle, the National Leather Association's "Living In Leather" weekend will be taking place — back where it all began. Lots of folks will be heading north for that one.

In July, the Leather Daddy XVIII and Northern California Drummer & Drummer Boy contests will prevail, along with the Dore Alley Fare, so get rested up now.

Hope you all had a wonderful Pride Weekend! ▼

RuPaul

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you. And be happy.

Have you ever performed for someone who was shocked to see you? Perhaps Jerry Falwell, Anita Bryant or Pat Robertson?

Not to my knowledge. Unless they were there incognito! Then I wouldn't know it. Usually I perform at places where they've asked me to come and perform. I don't just pop up at Religious Right conventions!

Have you made any friendships that would surprise us? With people the gay community might see as enemies?

I don't think so. But I think the nature of most people is loving and sweet. At the core of everyone is a really lovely person. A lot of time what we see, the really not-so-nice behavior, is a person's wounds. I don't think there really are enemies out there. Some people are just more wounded than others.

That's a wonderful thought. Very perceptive. But some people, like Jesse Helms, you would have to dig pretty deep to find any compassion or decency.

It is very obvious that he is a very wounded being. When an individual is really very anti-anything, that usually means that really rubs them personally on a very core level issue the wrong way. It's very telling, actually. One needs to look further

than their own experience.

Are there places you won't perform, like South Carolina?

The rebel flag really doesn't bother me. I see it as just cloth. It depends on the situation where I would decide not to perform. There are certain things I don't agree with, but a flag is not something that bothers me.

Like if someone called me a name, a bad name, something really ugly. I know myself enough to realize it has nothing at all to do with me. It's their crap.

How long does it take you to get into your stage persona?

It takes me up to three hours. But in a pinch I can do it in an hour. ▼

Copland Journey

◀ page 38

Finale of the Third Symphony.

I hardly disagreed with their enthusiasm, and I'm grateful Tilson Thomas chose more off-beat selections to demonstrate the composer's range, but I confess to enjoying the sexier and, sometimes, more sentimental interpretations of the late Leonard Bernstein rather more. In the lineage, Bernstein preceded MTT, and he always conducted Copland's scores as though he had written them himself (indeed, he borrowed from, as much as he was influenced by, Copland and many other writers). Still, Copland could make quintessentially American-sounding music with-

out actually cribbing (the Shaker tune in *Appalachian Spring* one notable exception), and Bernstein loved the sensuality and tenderness inherent in the gorgeous melodies. MTT is cooler and more controlled, emphasizing detail, amply illustrating the deceptive simplicities.

That is not to say Tilson Thomas skimps on theatricality or sonorous impact. *Fanfare for the Common Man* was suitably overpowering, and *The Golden Willow Tree* sounded like a rollicking production number from a big Broadway show. The concert's soloists were good, too. Peter Grunberg accompanied soprano Bridgett Hooks in *The Chariot* from *Twelve Poems of Emily Dickinson*, and he probably could have essayed the Piano Variations too,

but it is always great to hear MTT at the piano. Ms. Hooks also made a fine contribution to *In the Beginning*.

It is great tribute to Copland, indeed, that the long and comprehensive performance could barely scratch the surface of his prolific genius, but by evening's end we knew why Copland could be included in the pantheon of American mavericks. He was a loner in the sense that his influence has been great, but no one has ever really matched his vision. Fascinating, that the music of the Americas could be so strongly delineated by a Brooklynite with Eastern European roots, but that would make for another symposium, and would be better suited to the professional capabilities of our own MTT. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Tony/Troy??? We Shared 1 Kiss.... We shared 1 kiss together Pleasure-dome/Memorial Day. Wanted to talk but was attentive/loyal to semi incoherent friend. Would like to be loyal to you! I'm extremely charmed by you both times we've met (End-up months ago) Interested in dinner/conversation? Guy.. Call Me. ☎ 71993

Vince, Met You Este Noche 5/28 I was the other Vince. Call, I would like to meet you. ☎ 72015

Nathan Hines..... You moved. I lost contact. I want you in my life once again. Please call!!!! ☎ 71995

Monday 5/22 Kabuki Springs Me: Blond, smooth, 30's. You: (Jeff?) Dark, hairy, very sexy. Much eye contact; I was reading in lounge, you said hi; then I had to leave @ 7pm. Let's talk. ☎ 71994

Fri- 6/2/00 Thiastick Restaurant I was with 2 friends and you were with a friend. You said "How embarrassing" when your friend dropped his fork. We kept looking at each other. Please call me. ☎ 72013

Fri 6/2/00 Taistick Restaurant I was with 2 friends and you were with a friend. You said "how embarrassing" when your friend dropped his fork. We kept looking at each other please call me. Mark..... S 72013

May 3 In PM, U On All 4's, Me: Just gettin in. Stunned I was, and still am. Hope this rating that has started keeps on flowing. Signed KLC. ☎ 72014

Lawrence Of Scarsdale Enjoyed your trip? How about lunch-dinner-theatre? All the above? Dmnik-Rye-Triology, pls call. ☎ 72019

Dan, It's Dave From Portland Memorial Day Weekend, Saturday night, Blow Buddies. We hung out all night. Lost your card & number. Would love to stay in touch. ☎ 72016

Japantown Parking Garage You were paying at register (Memorial Day, Sunday). Me at end of long line. Our eyes locked. We laughed. You with parents. Please call. ☎ 72017

"Caught Off Guard!" Sun, 5/21, Potrero Safeway. You: Purdue cap and glasses. Me: blue shirt and ratty gray sweater. I'm kicking myself for not introducing myself. Can we have another go? ☎ 72018

Yellow Dandelion @ VW Bug 6/3 We stopped @ stop light Market & Eureka. You said, "I like your dandelion", over the window. You: red BMW, baseball cap. Me: VW, Asian, baseball cap. Can we? ☎ 72020

Guardian Angel 5-26-00 Mkt. St. Accident. You assisted with Police & Davies Medical Center. Would like to say "Thank you" in person. ☎ 72071

6/14 Filipino Guy In Scrubs You: cute Flip or Latino guy, boarding #33 at 18th & Castro 3pm. We kept checking each other out. Me: cute White boy, 24. Coffee or more? ☎ 72072

Prince Albert On Baker Beach Wednesday 6/14- You: short blond hair, gold sunglasses, Prince Albert, very sexy, white/black plaid bunkie. Me: with child. We smiled, you waved bye. Call! ☎ 72073

Golden Gate Bridge South 6/18 Sunday 7pm- You, a passenger in a blue Mustang convertible. Me, in a black Ford Ranger - I turned @ Webster-we waved-let's have dinner? ☎ 72074

Perrin, You Still Live In Me Your best friend is James. Matt in Oak. ☎ 72075

Justin- Powerhouse Sunday 6/18 I really enjoyed the time we spent together. You're a great kisser. Wish I had pen/paper in the car to get your number. I want to get to know you more. Eric. ☎ 72076

Market Street Safeway Sun 6/11 Approx. 1:45pm... You: blond GWM leaving. Me: GAM coming in. Us: both good-looking and looking at each other in parking lot. ☎ 72077

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Mixed Latin ISO Friends / Fun Seeking on-going great times with another Latin. I'm 34, dark featured. 5'6", 155, versatile. Movies, roller-blading, dinner, clubbing & you know, as we get to know. ☎ 71996

ISO GAM 20-45 for LTR Very attractive GWM 57, 6', 175, gym-toned body. High-energy guy wants to share life, love and interests in food, wine, travel, foreign languages, nature and the arts. ☎ 71997

Best Buds Masculine, muscular Italian toman seeks another masculine toman to "Hang", stroke, travel & vacation with. Good friends only. Age, race not important. ☎ 71998

GWM, 46, 6'1", 160# Shaved Head Br eyes Mustache Goatee Passionate Romantic Seeking Short Young vers bottom Latin Lover. ☎ 72021

Seeking Slim Smooth HIV+ Guy Attractive hung 41yo GWM seeks slim 28-38yo bottom or versatile guy of any race for fun hot sex and possible LTR. Prefer smooth to lightly hairy. HIV+ only please. ☎ 72000

Headmaster Bro Sgt Coach Sought By procrastinating, once successful, boyish, HWP, 40s, GWM for routine accountability. Self discipline. Is fulfilling commitments on schedule or grabbing ankles for paddle safe, sane, possible live in. ☎ 72001

Hot Frenchman! French guy desired for love and adventure by hung romantic blue eyed European in late 30's. Let's meet in San Francisco or Europe... ☎ 72002

Good Looking Straight Type Genuine, fun loving, non-scene GWM 42, 6'1", 195lbs. not into gay life. Seeks romance and love with similar good looking, masculine, relationship-oriented, non-scene nice guy with personality. S 72012

Balding S&P Shy Versatile Guy GWM, 48, 190lbs, hairy, uncut, clean and sober, sincere, honest. Very versatile. Skip other versatile GM, no smokers for dating, regular sex, and companionship. ☎ 72022

Seeking Bareback Bottom HIV-negative East bay GWM, 6'1", 165#, 62, affectionate gentle bareback top seeks bareback bottom lover/companion/ friend for caring sex and other shared interests. No smoking/drugs. HIV negative only. ☎ 72023

Affectionate And Sincere Looking for an honest, affectionate, fun-loving bottom, mid 50's, masculine and fit. I know how to cuddle and kiss and a few other things. ☎ 72024

Do You Like Alternative Music, Tokin Mota, bikini 2 Baker Beach, balling back naked? I'm 42- 5'8"- 150 bl/bl bottom healthy inshape HIV+. Like you 21-45, dark complexion, big ears, long hair, uncut top R A + 's. ☎ 72025

Man Is Great In His Transition Are you ready? 170lb, 5'9", good-looking GLM 40's seeks for someone with brains, heart, courage & body. HIV a plus, working out is a must. ☎ 72026

Wanted: Occasionally.A Handsome, mature, wealthy, unattached, husky, who will escort this very hot ex-kept BM man.Dining, theatre, travel. HIV-. ☎ 72027

Looking Old Fashioned LTR Tall stocky GWM professional, 50's HIV-, spiritual, smoker HIV-, well traveled, cut, hard looking for average professional, financially independent, educated, good-heart, cut, orally inclined, likes mother. HIV+ okay. ☎ 72028

Life Can Be Sunny-Wanna Share? ISO best friend-lover 4 LTR. Me: GWM 56, 5'11", 150lbs. Smoker, non-drinker, quiet, secure, nice guy, HIV-. You- HIV-, mature (50's), caring GM (White, Asian, Latin). ☎ 72029

Oral Specialist For Select Few Divorced, professional, WM, seeks, select married, young, athletic, males for oral satisfaction. No reciprocation is needed. ☎ 72030

Gruff Goofy Bear 6'4", 240lbs moderately hairy versatile/ top 8x6 believes trust and respect are earned not bestowed likes quiet things in life. Occasional partying, humor & cuddling. Daddy types big + kinky ok! ☎ 72031

Asian ISO White Male Asian male, 36, 145lbs, 5'7", attractive, built, smooth, clean shaven. In search of White male in their 30's. Smooth, in great shape for friends, date and more. ☎ 72032

Attractive Latino Goodlooking Latino 34yo brown eyes, darkhair goatee professional, looking for GWM between 26-40yo for friendship or more. Like: biking, hiking, going out to dinner, traveling etc. Just call ☎ 72040

Rancher Seeks Cowboy GWM 50, 5'10, 180#, black hair, short trimmed beard, brown eyes. Outdoors person. Non smoker, drinker. HIV- seeks down and in HIV GWM preferably younger for long term monogamous relationship. ☎ 71999

Attractive New To Area Healthy HIV+ WM in San Rafael is seeking a loving 5'10y, 172, seeks a man to enjoy outdoors, sweaty workouts in & out of gym & more. ☎ 72033

Nice Guy! GWM, 42yo, 6'2", 200lbs, HIV-seeks prof 35 to 45yo, top. Interest include music, movies, travel & spending quality times together! HIV-only pls. ☎ 72034

The Man In Those Great Dreams I'm Crag, HIV+, healthy, WGM, 5'9", 145#, raised in H.M.B. 40yo de cent-looking, blue colored and intelligent. Seeking even keeled very sexy W guy for laying pipe, witty fun & productive living. ☎ 72035

Athletic Poz Top Young 40, GWM, br, ha, clean cut, sensual poz top, 5'10y, 172, seeks a man to enjoy outdoors, sweaty workouts in & out of gym & more. ☎ 72036

cut4cutb Goodlooking Asian cut 26, 5'9", 185 ISO GWM or GHM for dating & LTR. Great sense of humor a plus. ☎ 72037

Life Is Very Short-Goodlooking Japanese 40 for LTR possible monogamous, me healthy, sun/athletic seeks GWM 60+professional, positive thinking, interested in show, music, travel, clothes, movie, sports. ☎ 72038

Seeking Relationship GWM, 54, 5'8", 185, brn/blue, beard, HIV neg, seeks on-going relationship with warm and loving man who practices safe and enjoys being jacked off by his partner. ☎ 72039

Handsome Italian 40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times, seeks another HIV negative well hung man who is honest and sincere for monogamous relationship. ☎ 72041

Attractive Chinese Seeks GWM 55 or over for LTR. I am 50, 5'8", 155#, sincere and caring. I prefer non-smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 72042

Passionate Top LM Seeks fun, friendly, and playful guys for friendship and more. I'm 35/150/5'5", romantic, educated, well traveled, and intense. Take a chance, I know you're out there. ☎ 72078

GAM Seeks GWM Are you beefy and brawny? Are you hairy and horny? GAM, 57, 5'8", 135, brn/bl, HIV neg, seeks such a man for the pleasures of body rubbing and frottage. ☎ 72079

Your Royal Hairiness Versatile GWM hairy bear, 60's, HIV-, thick cut big head, muscular hairy thighs, seeks hairy top any age. My throat & hole crave your stiff scepter. Eat me. ☎ 72080

"Black Man Wanted!" Masculine, muscular (46") chest, 32" waist, 19" bi-ceps W/M, mid 30's wants masculine BM (preferably tall) for LTR. Age unimportant, but no effeminate men, please. ☎ 72081

-Ready To Date- GWM, healthy, poz, 5'8", 165lbs, drk hr, fit, 41, sane, wants heart/physical connection. You: top, balanced, humorous, taller A+. S 72082

Handsome Positive Hunk For You Stable sincere goodlooking GWM, 5'10", 190lbs, 46" chest, 32w, 18" arms, looking for friendship/ dating, possibly more, with other HIV+ man who has a brain as well as a good body. ☎ 72083

If UR Slim Smooth GWM HIV+ guy affectionate romantic masculine, into working out. Under 40yrs old. Young look. I'm Latin gym toned, 36yr, old, body, dark featured, versatile.H: 5-07, w-157. Live in SF-yz. Call if you want to chat over coffee? ☎ 72084

Beauty Inside And Out Professional GWM, youthful 40, 5'10", 160#, 40" ch, 31" w, Mediterranean, good looks, big heart. Seeks GWM/GHM 35-45, confident, well-travelled, honest, for romance (uncut A+, not essential). ☎ 72085

Cute Asian Seeking LTR GAM, 35, 5'8", 155, workout regularly, smooth, toned body. ISO muscular, hairy, athletic types between the ages of 33-43yrs. Must be honest and sincere. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72086

Young Handsome Russian Looking for other intelligent Russians or Europeans under 40y.o. to give my body and soul. ☎ 72087

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Texas Boy Seeks Buckaroo
34yr old smooth, athletic regular guy seeks slim ethnic urbanite (26-32) for hangin out friendship, whatever. Integrity & adventurous a plus. ☎ 72088

"Get Your Stuff" Victoria 6/17
You: Asian guy in rush to party. Me: White guy in next sex who guarded your coat. We talked but didn't offer telephone numbers. Want to do an other movie? ☎ 72089

SEEKING ADVENTURE

My Face Needs Hots Cum Bath
If you're over 65 with large load this masculine WM 57 would like to stroke your cock see feel your hot cum splatter all over my face! S 72003

Oral Bottom
Cocksucking, asslicking guy loves to serve and worship beautiful guys. ☎ 72098

GWM For GWM Daytimes
If you are footloose & fancy free towards some great head on your "shopping trips" or whatever then I'm your man. ☎ 72057

Hairy Ass Middle Eastern
Gd looking 5'7", green eyes, big nipples, (Lm) body bldr, is looking for a top fister with a sling to train & stretch. ☎ 72004

I Fuck Your Face
You 30x-40s stud, like to service older guy 7 1/2" uncut eager cock. I reciprocate, hungry for thick cut ones. ☎ 72005

Bad Boys Need Real Butt
Spankings with hand, paddle and strap. OTK. over chair, then spread eagle on the bed. Str8, curious, cool. Private location. Fantasies? I'm 36, 6'2", 190#, HIV-. Limits respected and expanded. ☎ 72007

Dad ISO Submissive Son
Goodlooking top, GWM, Italian/German, 5'8", 150lbs.53, HIV+, ISO younger, submissive bottom for mutual satisfaction. Latino, Black or Asian a + but not necessary. ☎ 72008

Chubby, Fat, Stocky, Heavy-set
GBM, 46yo, 5'11", 250lbs, seeks chubby & fat men for uninhibited safe sex. Discretion a must. Big tits, thighs, legs & butt a +. ☎ 72009

Got Quads?
Powerful, muscular legs turn me on. If you got 'em and know how to use 'em, give me a call. Me: BM, mid 40's, gym toned, athletic, sensual. ☎ 72043

You Will Not Regret This Call
WM-30's tall, good looking, in-shape, great personality, many interest. Seeks same in Asian or Latin masculine men. ☎ 72044

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Are wanted by 56yr old White man 6'0", 160lbs, drk brn hair glasses. Big 9" cut tool want to fuck your hot butt be under 45. ☎ 72045

Dad Needs Bottom Boy
Me oral, topman GWM, 50, 6'5", 350, brown hair/moustache, hairy chest/stomach, You: attractive, GM (White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. Spanking, assplay, roleplay. ☎ 72047

East Bay Single GWM Top Seeks
Versatile bottom for marathon sex fantasies. You GWM or HGM, under 45 years, trim and fit, masculine and clean cut, smooth, muscular a plus, no scat, HIV, or heavy sm. ☎ 72048

French Guys And Italian Guys
I am looking for guys that are from France and Italy for fun and good times. I am hung "9". ☎ 72097

GWM Seeking Hot Encounters
GWM, 42, 5'7", ISO trim 30-50 years old Asian, Latin or Black for hot on-going morning or daytime passionate fun. Do you like to kiss, hug & stroke? ☎ 72053

Chubby-Daddy-Teddy-Grizzly-Bear
Hot, fun, 52, 6', 218 chub lbs., versatile, safe, and a real human being enjoys vanilla to lt. kink w/boys/men trimmer & younger than I. Castro & Grnvle. ☎ 72054

Butt Buddies
GWM, 41, 6'3", 240lbs, leather, beard/hairy, has play room for didd/toy/butplay action. Versatile only, beginners ok. Friendly, safe-2 slings/massage table. Bears A+++. ☎ 72055

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Young Slave For Training
Very cute 26yo. white submissive European boy wants to be fully trained by a cute but demanding master(s) under 36. Total obedience is guaranteed. ☎ 72058

Seniors Needed
Between 55, late 70's who enjoy servicing a squeaky clean, little submissive ass, 7" cock & nice balls, that pref. some pain. HIV-, 5'2", 120lbs. You be willing to come to Sacramento. Stay over my place if you like. Serious only & HIV-. ☎ 72090

HIV+ Bk5'9" 165# Healthy Active
Mostly top seeking 1 on 1 interaction with lean or slim build mostly bottom. Attracted to guys with good body proportion. Prefer guys in my size range. ☎ 72091

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Are wanted by 56yr old White top with a big 9" tool. I am 6'0", drk brn eyes, 160lbs wear glasses. Love to fuck young guys White or Latino under 40yrs old. ☎ 72092

Male Ballet Dancer Wanted
Attractive GBM, 35 would like to meet a current or former professional gay male Ballet Dancer, any age for fun and good times. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 72093

Professional ISO Safe Clean Fun
Me 37, 5'10", Asian, clean cut, slender built, not into scene. Enjoy long fore play, kissing, oral, jo, massage, showers, lots of body contact. Std free and healthy living important. ☎ 72049

Naked & Exposed
Private forced nudy fantasy games. Complete front & rear exposure. Lean, tight guy 48 seeks yng trim guys to strip & examine. You be proud or embarrassed or both. ☎ 72094

South Bay
GWM, early 50's, sensual, sexy, safely, uninhibited likes to be photographed, indoor/outdoor, let's have fun. ☎ 72046

Asian, Filipino, Latin Bottoms
Hot GWM wants to tongue & cock fuck your ass. VGL, fit body Italian 38, 165#, 5'8", HIV-, 7.5 cut cock. Let's meet & play. ☎ 72051

Virgin White Athlete, 4 Black
Slim man. 6'1", 205 blue/brown rookie has dreams of Oreo Cookie. Will you be the Black man that makes me proud? I shoe so! ☎ 72095

Do You Love Jackin Off? I Do...
Cute 32yo Phillipino seeks cute smooth h/w proportionate WM to 35 for j/o buddies. Hours of porn, sharing stories, coaxing each other to pump, stroke and squirt! Touching not required. ☎ 72096

Hot Ass Here For Pride Week?
Middleage, but hung and horny total top (a local legend) will poke you deeply in your hotel. Must leave your full name. Hotels only. Husky a plus. ☎ 72050

Gang Bang Daddy!
For his 60th birthday, daddy wants to be gang banged by four to six small, smooth, young pretty boys with average endowments. As a group or individuals. Bi-racial a +. ☎ 72006

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Healthy handsome A/M, 50+; you a clean top, no drug/disease, any race/age/size, willing and able to fuck me after lots of touches/kisses/cuddlings; West/South Bay location also ok. ☎ 72052

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GF seeks GWM or FGAM for morally beneficial experience. ☎ 72059

FETISHES

Just Sex But Passionate
Boy 35, 5'11", 190 lbm eyes & hair (HIVpos). You be 40-55 bald. Hairy chest A+ must love to kiss & touch a lot of four/play for weekend get-togethers. ☎ 71992

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Do you love to be tickled, tickled and teased? It can be slow and sensual or wild and playful. My fingers, feathers, brushes and tongue are ready! ☎ 71993

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WM, 44, 6', 160lbs, dark br eyes, med hry, ISO others to slowly drive all over my face & mouth. Husky/chubby, hairy, older groups a +, but all welcome. No SM, pain, VA, drugs. ☎ 72010

I Need Your Dark Socked Feet
GWM, 35, handsome will appreciate your warm, moist socked feet after a hard day's work. Manual/oral massage feels great while you lay back. Relax, melt, release. Businessmen, waiters, uniform a +. ☎ 72011

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Diaper Boy ISO A Daddy
37yo GWM seeks daddy or daddy master over 45. I am 5'11", 195 brown hair, hot eyes into wetting discipline, bpd, kink seeking LTR only. ☎ 72061

Chaw Man Working A Big Wad
Redneck, 48, 220, brn buzzcut/stache, tats digs other butch dudes who like kicking back, loading up a big wad of redman, and working up some mud-thick stud spit. ☎ 72062

Your Feet In My Face
GBM, 47yr. in East Bay, seeks WM-30yr. height/weight proportionate with big feet long toes for massage. I have a life long foot-fetish and love to service clean feet. Absolutely love sucking feet. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 72063

Young Slave For Dog Training
Very cute White 26yo boy from Europe wants to be fully dog trained by a demanding master(s) under 36. Full cooperation and obedience guaranteed. ☎ 72064

So I'm A Cum Addict!
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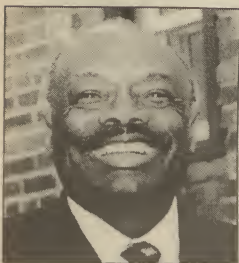
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Mayor Brown at Foreign Cinema

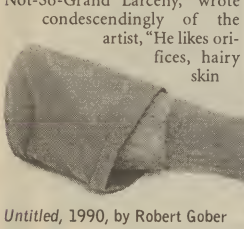
Out There

◀ page 30

he may not have that long to wait, for we predict it's going Straight To Video.

Yob meets art

When the exhibit **Robert Gober: Sculpture + Drawing**, now showing at the SF Museum of Modern Art through September 5, opened at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, DC earlier this year, a *Washington Post* staff writer named **Paul Richard**, in a review with the headline, "Robert Gober's Not-So-Grand Larceny," wrote condescendingly of the artist, "He likes orifices, hairy skin



Untitled, 1990, by Robert Gober

and enormous penetrations. His forms are often phallic. He mourns those dead of AIDS. What he is he does not hide. ...

"Other over-rated artists — one thinks here of **Cy Twombly**, that self-indulgent scribbler, and of photographer **Robert Mapplethorpe** — have also been much over-praised for dealing so overtly with assorted gay imaginings."

Do our readers think this scribe Richard has a wee problem with gay issues? Or is he just too big of a yob to deliver a review unsullied by his own hang-ups? Evidently, an editor at the *Post* thought so, for five days later, the paper took the unusual step of letting another staff writer re-review the same show; staff writer **Michael O'Sullivan's** piece, "Gober: In Transit to Rebirth," was much more open to and perceptive of the artist's work. We think poor Richard should be re-assigned, perhaps to the sewer management beat.

Closer to home, we've heard a bit of whining that Gober would n't participate in the NQAF, and does not seem to be very forthcoming about spelling out the meaning of his works. But part of his art's extraordinary, haunting beauty lies in its elusiveness, its mystery. Not every artist has to get on the self-promotion bandwagon, and Gober's is surely an art of understatement.

Pleasing holes

Not everyone was covering the US Open at Pebble Beach last week. Out There, to take one example, was touring the links of *Golf Zeum: A Hole in (C)one*, a wacky new show at Zeum in Yerba Buena Gardens, which commissioned seven local artists to create their own versions of that summertime staple, miniature golf. In sculptors **Gary Goddard** and **Nathaniel Taylor's** "Celestial Arcade," for example, you can pick up a club and try your hand at hitting a ball through a wormhole, an asteroid field, and a slowly ro-

tating black hole. Sound like last night's date?

Artists **James Harbison** and **Evelyn Funes** have created a teenager's bedroom with all the right touches: piles of dirty clothing and squalor everywhere. To challenge your putt, Harbison and Funes have stocked their installation with a host of obstacles, just like a real teen's room, including a skateboard, a sprawling chest of drawers, and a spinning pair of tightly whities that have been worn so long they stand up on their own.

On the back patio, noted draftsman **Daniel Castor** has created a hole which challenges the laws of perspective. And in the Zeum Cone (we know, it sounds like the Coneheads' launching pad), SF artist **Joyce Hsu** uses the architecture's spiraling ramp as part of what's billed as one of the largest-ever putt-putt holes. And you thought you had the biggest one. Through Sept. 10; for info, call 777-2800.

Country cussin'

The *LA Times* reported that a 30th anniversary retrospective of [director **Robert**] **Altman's** *America* last week at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art reunited the director with Nashville cast members **Henry Gibson**, **Keith Carradine**, **Ronee Blakley** and **Karen Black**.

Actor Gibson told the *Times* that the country music community wasn't thrilled with Nashville. "Minnie Pearl was outraged," recalls Gibson, who played a pompous country superstar. "I remember on opening night, someone asked her how she would rate the picture, and she said, 'I give it two closed nostrils!'" Nashville kicked off the 18-film Altman retrospective with a special 25th-anniversary screening and cast and crew reunion.

Times reporter **Susan King** wrote, "Clocking in at nearly two hours, 40 minutes, Nashville revolves around 24 diverse characters living in the capital of country music. Blakley, who received an Oscar nomination for best supporting actress, plays a country music queen on the verge of a breakdown; **Lily Tomlin**, in her first film, also received an Oscar nomination in the same category as an unhappy gospel singer-housewife with a deaf child; Carradine, who won an Oscar for his song 'I'm Easy,' plays a folk-singer who likes to sleep around and is having an affair with a singing partner (**Cristina Raines**); **Gwen Welles** is a waitress desperate to become a star but lacking the talent to succeed; **Geraldine Chaplin** is a BBC reporter doing a documentary on the music scene; and Black is Blakley's archrival in the music industry."

Nashville, which was Oscar-nominated for best film, was made for \$1.9 million. "All the actors paid \$1,000 a week were the known ones," Altman told the *Times*, "and the others were paid \$750. Those were the two scales. They were all there, all the time. The only exception was Karen Black. She was there just for a week."

Still, it is Black we will be celebrating next month, as the *Ho-Down With Karen Black*, featuring KB live in person, takes over the Castro Theatre (July 21, 7 p.m.) The **Huestis**-produced spectacle includes a rare screening of the cult classic *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*. Call 863-0611 for tickets. ▼

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WhenU knead it! Pgr 251-0563 24/7

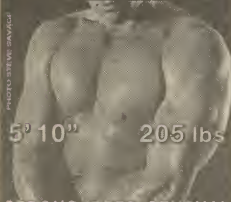
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Relaxing &/or erotic by a very
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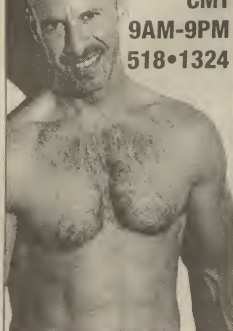
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care of those muscles \$70=1 1/2hr.
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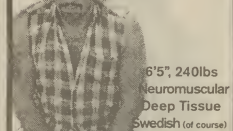
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shap guys this handsome muscular

hung Italian gives firm eotic touch

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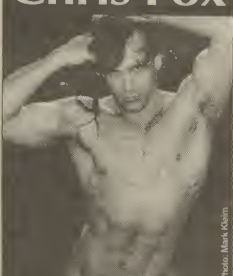
to me. Tony 487-1959

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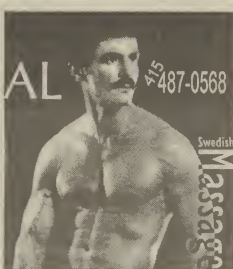
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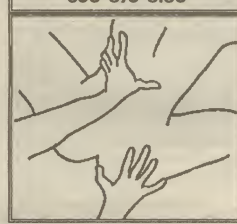
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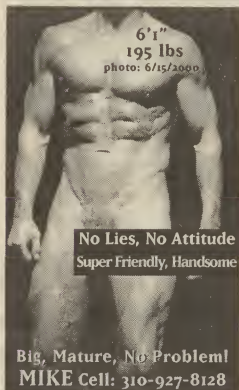
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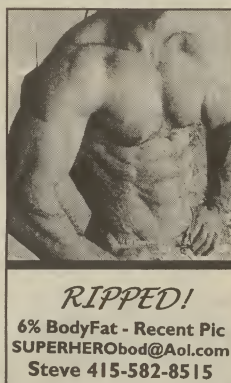
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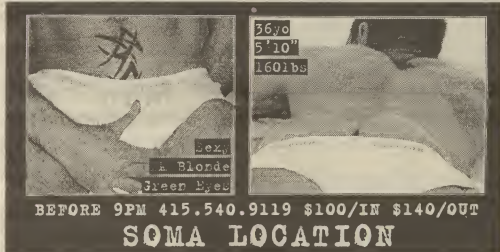
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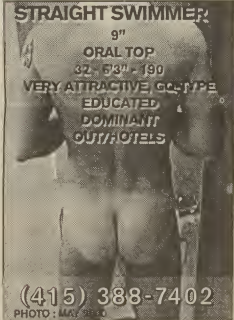
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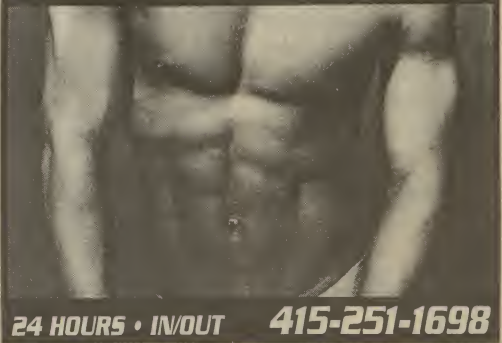
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Great massage. Full release, SF,
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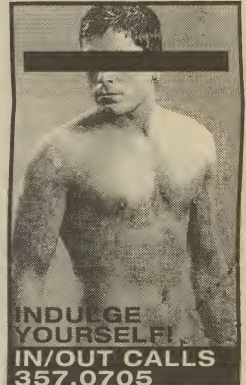
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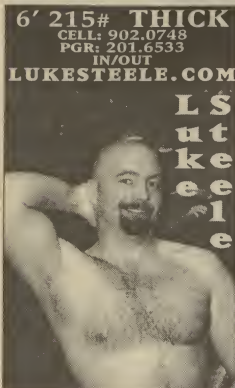
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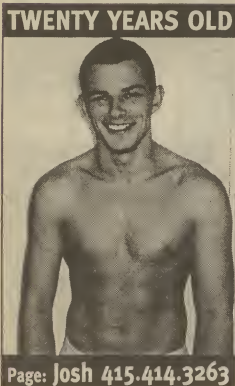
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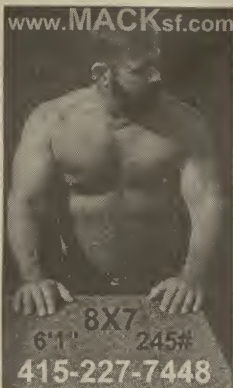
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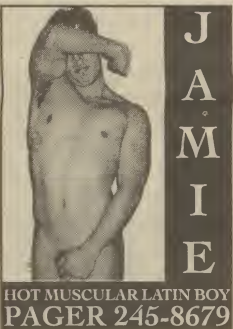
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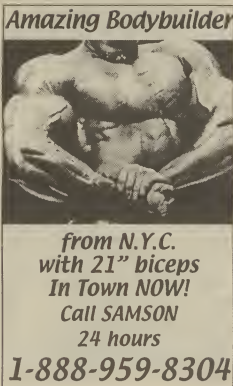
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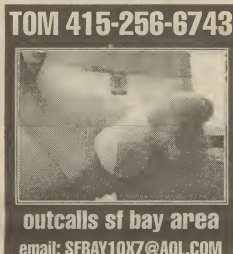


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